
PROCEDURES FOR PARISHES INVOLVED IN A COMBINED CONFIRMATION CELEBRATION WITH BISHOP BAMBERA

Please remember that it is envisioned that all of the parishes involved in a combined celebration of Confirmation with Bishop Bambara would collaborate, share responsibilities, and invite ministers (choir members, lectors, hospitality etc.) from each parish involved to participate in the celebration. The host parish should not take sole responsibility for preparing and participating in the Confirmation.



Pastors/Parish Life Coordinators

- Notify DRE, catechists, candidates, parents and sponsors of when and where the combined celebration will take place.
- Collaborate with the host pastor and decide on:
 - the time of the Confirmation (5:00PM with dinner afterwards or 6:30PM with dinner/light fare beforehand)
 - the rehearsal date(s) and time(s) for candidates and sponsors
 - the place for dinner
 - a plan for dividing financial costs for the celebration
 - the gathering space for candidates
 - any other arrangements such as photos, video recording, altar flowers, worship aids etc.
- If participating in a combined celebration of Confirmation at a neutral worship site, pastors/PLCs must contact the pastor of that church to arrange the rehearsal, the dinner (if taking place at the host site), the gathering space for candidates, and other arrangements.
- Ask the parish music director to collaborate with the other parish music directors in forming a combined music ministry for the celebration.
- Invite liturgical ministers from each parish involved to participate as Extraordinary Ministers of Communion (if needed), Lectors, and Altar Servers for the celebration.
- The Pastor/Parish Life Coordinator of each parish will present the candidates to the bishop during the Confirmation. Please refer to the revised text for the [presentation of candidates for a combined celebration](#) on the diocesan website.
- Recording the Confirmation:
 - The sacramental register from each parish is to include names of those confirmed from that parish, but must include a side note indicating when and where the Confirmation took place.
 - Host parishes must indicate in their sacramental record what parishes (and locations) participated in the combined confirmation.
 - The pastor/parish life coordinator of each participating parish must still notify the church of baptism of each person confirmed, including when and where the Confirmation took place.

Directors of Religious Education/Directors of Faith Formation

- Continue religious education and sacramental formation processes in their parish as normal, or consider joining resources with the other participating parishes when feasible.
- Communicate the arrangements of the rehearsal(s) and the location of the host parish to everyone involved (candidates, sponsors, parents etc.).
- Coordinate various responsibilities such as printing the worship aids, setting up the meeting space for confirmandi, arranging dinner etc.
- Names of candidates from all participating parishes should be combined into one list arranged alphabetically by last name for entrance procession and seating order. Seating for sponsors will need to be arranged in the same order.
- In order to maximize the church seating capacity for the actual celebration, Confirmation candidates and sponsors should comfortably fill the entire pew. This arrangement can be finalized at the rehearsal. Coordinating the same number of candidates to sponsors in a pew wastes valuable space for the seating of other family members in church.

Music Directors

- Music directors from each parish involved in the Confirmation should collaborate in providing a combined music ministry for the celebration. This includes:
 - Selecting hymns and songs relatively familiar to each parish choir and assembly to allow fuller sung participation at the Mass
 - Having representation from each parish involved in the various music ministries of the liturgy (cantor, psalmist, organist/pianist, instrumentalist etc.).
 - Holding a combined music rehearsal sometime during the week before the Confirmation (or even on the day of Confirmation before Mass)
 - Having multiple choir directors and organists share some of the responsibility of playing and/or directing during the liturgy.

Attire for Candidates

The following are minimal guidelines for attire: (Since gowns will no longer be worn, some parishes have requested this information)

- Young Men should wear dress slacks, dress shirt with tie, and dress shoes. A suit jacket may also be worn, but is optional. Shoes should be sensible for safety when walking. Please no jeans, sneakers or flip flops.
- Young women should wear dresses or skirts appropriate in length and style, or dress slacks. Dresses or blouses will have a modest neckline with no bare shoulders. Shoes should be sensible for safety when walking. Please no jeans, sneakers or flip flops.

If you have any questions regarding these procedures, please contact David Baloga, Director for Worship, at 570-207-2213, ext. 1158 or at david-baloga@dioceseofscranton.org.