

## DIOCESE OF OAKLAND

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Dear Pastors, Confirmation Directors and Youth Ministers,

It is my pleasure to present these guidelines for the Sacrament of Confirmation. The guidelines had originally been discussed and approved by the Presbyteral Council shortly before my predecessor, Archbishop Vigneron, was assigned to Detroit, but due to his move they were not promulgated at that time. Our Department of Evangelization and Catechesis has since reviewed and slightly revised them, and the current guidelines have again been discussed twice by the Council, have undergone a few additional modifications at their suggestion, and then approved again. I am happy now to promulgate them for implementation in the parishes of our Diocese.

These guidelines have been created to provide a framework for preparation for the Sacrament. They include catechesis on a broad spectrum of topics to help our young people build a solid foundation of faith and a strong Catholic identity when applied integrally and creatively in a way that engages their attention and energies in fostering a loving relationship with Christ and knowledge of the Catholic faith. It is our hope that in this way they will be fully equipped to pursue a holy, sacramental life acting as ambassadors of Christ in the world in which they live.

There is sufficient material in these guidelines to necessitate a minimum of 72 hours of engagement (excluding the retreat and service opportunities) over the course of the preparation process. This would translate to 7.2 hours a month for a 10 month (1 year) program or 3.6 hours per month for a 20 month (2 year) program. This time frame should provide sufficient opportunity for catechesis, internalization and real life application to assist our young people as they build strong foundations of faith. Each parish can schedule the formation process in a way that is most suitable for their community.

DEC will present frequent ongoing regional workshops to support your efforts in preparing our young people. These workshops will include resource recommendations, tools and best practices to assist you in creating an engaging, faith-filled sacramental preparation process.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude for your sincere dedication to our young people. May you be richly blessed for your efforts in sharing God's love and mercy as you spread the Good News of salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ.

If you have any questions, please contact Patti Collyer, Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, at pcollyer@oakdiocese.org or (510) 267-8389.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Most Reverend Salvatore Cordileone

Bishop of Oakland