



**Office of Worship**  
**Diocese of Honolulu**

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**MEMORANDUM**

TO: All Clergy and Parishes (Transition Groups #2 & #3)

FROM: Deacon Modesto Cordero, Director  
Office of Worship

DATE: January 3, 2018

RE: **Rite of Confirmation and First Communion within Mass in the Diocese of Honolulu for parishes in transition groups #2 & #3**

This memorandum contains general information and guidelines regarding the celebration of the Rite of Confirmation in the Diocese of Honolulu with Most Reverend Larry Silva, Bishop of Honolulu or his delegate. As many of the priests, DREs and Confirmation Catechists are new to our diocese and/or the ministry, this information is meant to remind you of the basics of the Rite of Confirmation, as well as specifically enunciate many of the guidelines for the Diocese of Honolulu. Thank you for taking the time to be familiar with the many facets of the rite and ministry.

**The revised Rite of Confirmation is now available through USCCB Publishing. The ritual text, printed in both Spanish and English, has been posted for sale on the USCCB website <http://store.usccb.org/The-Order-of-Confirmation-p/7-521.htm>. Every parish SHOULD have a copy.**

**GENERAL GUIDELINES**

1. If the parish (or a neighboring parish) has a deacon or deacons, his/their participation is expected and encouraged.
2. All priests in the parish are encouraged to concelebrate.
3. Please make clear to all attending that photographs and videos should be kept to a minimum and in no case should interfere with the reverence due the liturgy.
4. Candidates and Sponsors (at least) should be instructed that gum chewing is not appropriate at any liturgy.
5. A stole that goes over the neck and hangs down on both sides in front is the vestment that symbolizes an ordained priest and should not be used by the Confirmation candidates or the newly confirmed. Similarly, a stole that is worn diagonally over the shoulder is the vestment reserved for an ordained deacon. Since Confirmation is closely linked to Baptism, and since the white garment is the “vestment” of the baptized, Confirmation candidates are encouraged to wear white.

6. The Bishop and/or delegate will use prayers from the *Roman Missal*, not from prepared sheets with the exception of the *Universal Prayers*. Please prepare and provide two copies to the Minister of Ceremonies upon his/her arrival.

7. Please inform the Minister of Ceremonies whether incense will be used. If so, be sure to appoint altar servers to handle the thurible and incense.

## INTRODUCTORY RITES

### 1. Entrance Procession:

- a. Candidates for Confirmation will participate on the entrance procession, they will process after the thurible and/or Cross bearer with two candles. If the Chrism is carried in procession, it would be carried **before** the Book of the Gospels. The Chrism should be put in a prominent place, but not on the altar.
- b. Since Confirmation is a Sacrament of Initiation, use of the *Blessing and Sprinkling of Water* is appropriate. After the bishop blesses the water (preferably from the baptismal font), an appropriate baptismal song should accompany the actual sprinkling. By exception, the Penitential Rite may be celebrated in place of the Sprinkling Rite.
- c. The *Gloria* should be sung after the Bishop says the prayer that concludes the Sprinkling Rite (not during the sprinkling). (The Gloria is omitted during Advent and Lent.)

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### 1. Readings:

- a. **The proper Readings assigned in the Lectionary for the day are to be used on all Sundays, the Octave of Easter and Solemnities.** For other days, the texts for Confirmation found in the Lectionary, Volume IV (Nos. 764-768), and texts suitable to the occasion, may be used. If the Confirmation is not on a Sunday, the Octave of Easter or Solemnity, please send the Office of Worship the chosen Scripture references at least three weeks before the Confirmation.
- b. **If the Confirmandi are to perform the function of Lector, they should be well prepared.** No one should read simply to “include them in the liturgy.” While having a copy of the readings is a good idea for practice, lectors should read from the lectionary during the liturgy, not from loose papers.
- c. **The Gospel is read by the deacon, or, in his absence, by the pastor or other concelebrating priest.**

## SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

### 1. Presentation of the Candidates:

- a. Takes place before the homily.
- b. Includes calling each candidate by name, but should not be long and drawn out. If there are more than 50 candidates, the names should not be read out but printed in the program.
- c. Applause from the assembly should be held until all the candidates' names have been called.
- d. The Homily will be given by *the main presider (e.g., Bishop or delegate)*.

### 2. The Renewal of Baptismal Promises:

- a. An altar server should hold the Rite of Confirmation book for the presider.
- b. Confirmandi should be rehearsed to respond “**I DO**” loudly and clearly.

### 3. The Laying on of Hands:

- a. An altar server should hold the Rite of Confirmation book for the *presider* for the invitation to prayer and the invocation of the Holy Spirit.
- b. Bishop Silva's preference is to impose hands over each of the Confirmandi. If the numbers make this unworkable (more than 30), he will impose hands over them all at once before he prays the prayer of invocation.
- c. If the Laying on of Hands is done individually, the Confirmandi (without sponsors) may come in procession. This ritual may be accompanied by appropriate background music.

### 4. The Anointing with Chrism:

- a. The Confirmandi come up one-by-one with sponsors. Care should be taken that they do not block the view of the assembly as they come forward.
- b. Please have a printed nametag for each candidate, with the name the presider will say highlighted in some manner. The sponsor should also state the name of the candidate. (Note: It is the Confirmation NAME of the candidate that will be used at the anointing, whether it is the person's baptismal name or the name of a chosen patron saint. If the candidate chooses St. Theresa as her/his patron, for example, the name tag should say "THERESA" not "St. Theresa" or "Guadalupe" not "Our Lady of Guadalupe.")
- c. A deacon, if present, or a priest should hold the Chrism for the Bishop/presider on his right. Please provide the Bishop/presider a small cloth/purificator as well, so that he can wipe off dripping Chrism.
- d. If the confirmandi are small children, the Bishop will sit in a place convenient for the confirmandi to approach him. If the confirmandi are adults, the Bishop prefers to do the anointing while standing. As he anoints each one, he will say, "*N., be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.*" *The newly confirmed answers, "Amen."* Then the Bishop will say, "Peace be with you," and the newly confirmed answers, "*And with your spirit.*"
- e. Appropriate background music during the anointing should begin only after the Bishop/presider has anointed the first three candidates, so that the assembly is able to hear the formula of anointing.
- f. The Bishop/presider will clean his hands of residue Chrism with the small cloth/purificator referred to in (c) above, then will have his hands washed with soapy water and a towel brought to him by the servers.. Lemon and bread are NOT necessary.
- g. The parish is responsible for providing the Chrism. It should be in a container that makes it visible to the assembly of the faithful, such as a crystal bowl.

### 5. The Universal Prayer:

- a. **The Intercessions should be presented by the deacon.**
- b. In his absence, they may be presented by one or several of the newly Confirmed, or by a parent, sponsor, or someone in parish leadership. Only those who can announce the petitions clearly and audibly should be allowed to do so.

## LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

### 1. Communion Rite:

- a. **Ordained clergy are the ORDINARY ministers of Holy Communion.** If help is needed beyond the ordained clergy present, please use only extraordinary ministers of Communion from the parish who are trained and familiar with their responsibilities. For Confirmation liturgies outside of the regularly scheduled weekend liturgies, please be sure that ministers of Holy Communion have been assigned and prepared.
- b. **For those who are to receive their First Communion, the Bishop is the ordinary minister of the Body of Christ and the deacon of the Precious Blood (if desired).**

- c. If extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion are needed for the Communion of the rest of the faithful, the MC should direct the pastor or another priest or deacon to give them Communion while the Bishop goes to the first communicants. It should be decided beforehand whether the rest of the faithful will receive Communion after the first communicants have received or whether they will begin their Communion procession as soon as the ministers are ready.
- d. The Prayer after Communion may follow a meditation song, but **always precedes** the announcements and acknowledgements.

## CONCLUDING RITES

1. **Announcements:** If there are to be announcements, please have someone from the parish make them after the Prayer after Communion.

2. **Blessing and Dismissal:** Ordinarily a Solemn Blessing or Prayer over the People will be used. Please have the altar server hold the *Roman Missal* for the Bishop/presider. Everyone answers “*AMEN*” after each of the invocations.

3. **Procession** -- Cross, servers, priest: The ministers and the Bishop process out first, then the newly Confirmed, so that the Bishop/presider can be outside the door to greet and congratulate them. If groups photographs are desired, the procession out may be eliminated, and the group may be rehearsed beforehand to line up on the sanctuary steps or in another appropriate place and the Bishop can join them. In this case the music director should be instructed to either eliminate the final song or to make it very short, so that directions for picture taking do not have to interfere with the music.

Please feel free to contact me at the Office of Worship, 808-585-3342 or email at [mcordero@rcchawaii.org](mailto:mcordero@rcchawaii.org) should you have any additional questions.

Blessings!