

Diocese of Davenport Confirmation Policy

Preparing young people for the Sacrament of Confirmation is perhaps the most challenging issue facing catechists today. The proper age for candidates, the appropriate catechetical approach, who should be the ordinary minister of the sacrament and even the theological nature of the sacrament itself are questions which are currently debated at all levels of Church life.

The Sacrament of Confirmation is normally conferred between the eighth and eleventh grades, inclusive, after the candidate has participated in a **parish based** program of at least one year in duration. This program should include the following elements:

- 1) Formal catechetical instruction
- 2) Christian service
- 3) Prayer and retreat
- 4) Integration of the candidate into the life of the parish community.

The particular program by which these requirements are fulfilled in an individual parish is the prerogative of the pastor. If, as in most parishes, responsibility for confirmation preparation is delegated to another person (DRE, Youth Minister Leaders, Principals, adult volunteer, etc.), the pastor should make certain that this person is competent, well resourced and supported in every aspect of the task.

The Office of Pastoral Services stands ready to offer assistance in all areas of Confirmation programming. If you desire further assistance, please contact Joe Dvorak, Pat Finan or Mary Wieser at 563-324-1911.

