

## **Time Line for Implementing Confirmation before First Eucharist**

By January 2007, those preparing for First Reconciliation and First Communion should be prepared for Confirmation as well. First Reconciliation should be prepared for first and there should be adequate time celebrating Confession before Confirmation and First Communion. This could be done in late Spring or summer, as the families are ready to present the children as being prepared for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. If a parish wants, it can begin this practice in January 2006, or in the fall 2006. Keep in mind that about a year should pass between First Reconciliation and Confirmation/First Eucharist. Many times the parents and older siblings need help so that they can better celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

By January 2007, those who have celebrated First Eucharist, but have not yet been Confirmed, should begin being encouraged to enter into formation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. The recommendation is that all those who have already celebrated First Eucharist celebrate Confirmation before July 1, 2009. Each parish and mission should consider their individual circumstances and identify approximately how many young people they have who will need to celebrate Confirmation. It might be that due to the number of young people in a particular community it seems desirable to arrange their formation for the sacrament so that part of the group is done one year and part the following year or some in the fall and spring, or even multiple dates close together. If a parish/mission seeks to do this they can recommend, but not require, that the children of a particular age enter into formation for Confirmation (e.g.: Those who are 12-15 begin formation in January 2007 and those who are 9-12 are encouraged to begin formation in January 2008). Keeping in mind that parents have a right to present their child for the Sacrament of Confirmation if they are appropriately prepared and have reached the age of 7. Also, families might want to wait a year or two so that multiple siblings can celebrate the Sacrament together. The celebration of Confirmation of Catholics must be scheduled through the Bishop's Office.

It is important that in this process attention be given to all the members of the household of faith. Many times there are adults or older children who have not celebrated Reconciliation, Confirmation and/or First Eucharist, or perhaps are not married in the Church. The formation of a young person for the Sacraments is an excellent opportunity to help encourage all in the household to a deeper living of the life of the Sacraments.

### **What about those already in formation?**

Those preparing for sacraments in the spring of 2006, there should be no change in program.

Those who began a two year preparation program prior to October 2005 will complete their original program.

### **Parish Implementation Plan**

Each parish and mission should develop an implementation plan and submit it to the Faith Formation Office by May 15, 2006. Faith Formation Leaders (FFL) will receive a blank form to use in preparing a plan for their community. In dialogue with the Pastor and ideally with the Pastoral Council a specific time line should be set forth for each community. Upon completion, the Pastor must approve the plan and submit it to the Diocesan Faith Formation Office and the plan needs to be presented to the Pastoral Council (either by the Pastor, or if he prefers, by the FFL). While there are many possible variations, the following serve as general guidelines for developing the required Parish Implementation plan:

#### **Early Adopters**

Begin in January 2006 formation for First Reconciliation in May or June 2006 and for Confirmation and First Eucharist in spring of 2007.

#### **Typical Adopters**

Begin in September 2006 formation for Reconciliation in Advent with Confirmation and First Eucharist celebrated together in the fall of 2007.

#### **Late Adopters**

Begin in January 2007 begin formation of those about 7 for First Reconciliation in May 2007 and then for Confirmation and First Eucharist in May 2008.