

St. Andrew Catholic Community

***Restored Order
of
Initiation Sacraments***



Normative Age for Full Initiation

In the Code of Canon Law commentary (paragraph 891) references are made to the 1917 Code as preferring confirmation to be postponed to the seventh year of age.

An End to Religious Education?

The commentary continues on to state that delaying confirmation until the tenth year could not be sustained.

Absolutely not. Confirmation and Eucharist complete the initiation process. INITIATION IS A BEGINNING NOT AN END.

None of us know all there is to know about God and God's commands.

Coming to know Jesus, truly know Jesus in a real and personal way takes sometimes a lifetime to achieve.

Learning is a life long process especially when it comes to our faith life.

St. Andrew Catholic Community

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ORDER OF INITIATION SACRAMENTS

Restored Order places the Sacraments of Initiation in their original order: Baptism, followed by Confirmation and then First Eucharist.

Code of Canon Law

Paragraph 891 states that "the sacrament of confirmation is to be conferred on the faithful at about age of discretion (7 years of age) unless the conference of bishops determines another age or there is danger of death." St. Andrew's was one of the pilot parishes celebrating the Restored Order of Initiation since January 2004.

History

In 1910 Pope Pius X urged that children be admitted to communion at the age of discretion. The Pope's urging, however, did not constitute an authorization to invert the traditional sequence of the initiation sacraments.

To prevent any misunderstanding, in 1932 the Sacred Congregation of the Sacraments interpreted Pius X's instruction by reaffirming that "children should not approach the sacred table for the first time until after the reception of the sacrament of confirmation." An exception was made for children who lacked an opportunity to receive confirmation first were allowed to receive communion at the earlier age. By the middle of the last century, this 'special case' or exception has become the common practice.

Research

Fr. Joseph "Fr. Joe" Annese and Sondra Hoffman contacted several Diocese around the country that are currently celebrating Restored Order of Initiation Sacraments. Some Diocese have been doing so for over 10 years.

At least 10 Diocese sent information about their processes, guidelines and requirements to St. Andrew's.

It is with this background of information and knowledge that our parish of St. Andrew's proceeds to implement the Restored Order.

Requirements

All students who prepared for the First Eucharist were confirmed, fully initiated, at the same celebration with First Eucharist.

All students who had already received First Eucharist, celebrated full initiation with Confirmation at the celebration in January of 2004.

As a prerequisite for the reception of sacraments, St. Andrew's has a standing policy requiring a two year consecutive attendance.

All students are required to attend their regularly scheduled classes at their assigned day and time. An additional class may be required by some students as part of the Eucharist preparation.

Program

Within the normal calendar year of 28 classes, there are specific sessions dedicated to the preparation for full initiation. The emphasis will be on initiation, starting with the signs and symbols of all the initiation sacraments. This preparation will take place during their regular scheduled classes.

Any student not baptized at St. Andrew's is required to have his/her parent submit a copy of their baptismal certificate to the Religious Education office.

There is also greater emphasis on family participation in the preparation for initiation. In addition, the candidate preparing for full initiation will be asked to select someone with whom they may walk in faith as a mentor/sponsor.

Each student will be asked to demonstrate how he/she has incorporated service to others in their daily lives. Their ability to serve is directly correlated to the age and ability of the child.

