

Catechesis for Confirmation/Chrismation

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The various Episcopal conferences may designate the appropriate age for Confirmation. The sacramental practice for Confirmation in the United States varies from diocese to diocese, and the appropriate age is designated as anywhere from the age of discretion to about 16 years. In light of this diversity, a single catechesis is not prescribed but there are some general guidelines.

Dioceses and parishes should provide catechesis for the Sacrament of Confirmation that

- Teaches that Confirmation increases and deepens the grace of Baptism, imprinting an indelible character on the soul
- Teaches that Confirmation strengthens the baptismal conferral of the Holy Spirit on those confirmed in order to
 - ✓ incorporate them more firmly in Christ
 - ✓ strengthen their bond with the Church
 - ✓ associate them more closely with the Church's mission
 - ✓ increase in them the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and
 - ✓ help them bear witness to the Christian faith in words and deeds
- Teaches about the role of the Holy Spirit, his gifts, and his fruits
- Is developmentally appropriate and includes retreat experiences
- Includes instruction on the Rite of Confirmation and its basic symbols:
 - ✓ the imposition of hands
 - ✓ the anointing with the Sacred Chrism, and
 - ✓ the words of the sacramental formula
- Ensures that parents and sponsors are involved in the catechetical preparation of the children for Confirmation
- Teaches that the bishop is the ordinary minister of the sacrament of Confirmation (in the Eastern Catholic Churches, however, the priest is the ordinary minister of Chrismation)