

GENERAL DECREE – EXTRAORDINARY FACULTIES FOR SACRAMENT OF
CONFIRMATION FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS

Guidelines

August 20, 2020

Following the promulgation of the general decree for the administration of the sacrament of confirmation to children and adults, please take note of the following guidelines:

1. The extraordinary faculties for the administration of the sacraments of baptism and confirmation to adults, or confirmation for children, apply exclusively to parish pastors, parish administrators and priests in charge of missions, who occupy said office by virtue of an official nomination by the Archbishop.
2. During the period in which these faculties are provided, it is not necessary for priests to request faculties by letter to the Chancery office, as per the normal procedure.
3. These faculties may not be delegated to a curate, an assistant priest or any other priest.
4. Priests to whom these faculties are granted may administer the sacraments only to persons who belong to their own parish community, and not to anyone belonging to another parish or diocese. Exceptions are allowed for the collaboration of parishes who share catechetical programs and personnel.
5. The candidates must be well-prepared and properly disposed to receive the sacraments, that is, they must have completed an adequate catechetical formation before receiving the sacraments.
6. The sacraments must be registered in the parish registers as per the ordinary manner prescribed by canon law.
7. The general decree does not eliminate the possibility that a parish may invite an ordinary minister (i.e. a bishop, episcopal vicar, or other delegated priest) to preside the confirmation celebrations.

For more information concerning the invitation of ordinary ministers, please contact the Office de l'Éducation de la Foi (ODEF).

The form entitled “Formulaire de demande pour un ministre de la confirmation”, must be completed online before September 9th 2020, and is available through the following web-link:

<https://diocesemontreal.org/en/parish-resources/faith-education>