



Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee

Office of the Bishop

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Brothers and Sisters in the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee:

Greetings in the Lord Jesus and abundant blessings be with you! I would like to share with you some joyful news for our diocese during this Jubilee Year.

As new sacramental guidelines are being developed for our diocese, a change in the age for the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation was considered. After study, consultation, and prayer, I have decided that the age for the Sacrament of Confirmation for children in the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee will be moved to an earlier age. Beginning in 2025, we will be moving gradually and methodically toward a “restored order” of the Sacraments of Initiation that will be completed in 2028. Practically speaking, this means that children, around the age of discretion (7), will receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist (First Communion) at the same Mass when properly catechized and disposed.

This transition is part of a larger initiative in our diocese to renew faith in the family by encouraging, empowering, and equipping *parents* to assume their role as primary educators of their children, handing the Catholic Faith on to their children. Our Diocesan Ministries Office, in particular the Office of Faith Formation, will work closely with parishes and Catholic schools to develop throughout our diocese a strong emphasis on “family catechesis,” with parents taking a more active role in the faith formation of their child(ren) – especially in preparation for the celebration of the Sacraments.

I will be sharing more details on the “why” and “how” of this process in the near future, as I am presently completing a Pastoral Letter. More information will also become available in the months ahead from your parish and from our diocesan offices. This is an exciting time for the Catholic Church in Northwest Florida, a time of renewed emphasis on the power of the Sacraments in the lives of our children and on the role of parents in raising their children to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ in our Catholic tradition.

While no new policy is being promulgated with this letter, I will soon be issuing a decree that specifies what the particular policies and law will be required going forward in our diocese. Please direct any initial questions or concerns you might have to Sr. Margaret Kuntz, ASCJ at kuntzm@ptdiocese.org

With every best wish, I remain

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Bishop William A. Wack, CSC
Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee