



Diocese of Springfield in Illinois

Catholic Pastoral Center • 1615 West Washington Street • Springfield, Illinois 62702-4757
www.dio.org 217-698-8500 FAX 217-698-0802

Office of the Bishop

DECREE ALTERING THE GRADE LEVEL IN WHICH THE HOLY EUCHARIST IS FIRST RECEIVED IN THE DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD IN ILLINOIS

Whereas I accepted the recommendation of the Members of the Fourth Synod of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois to adopt a statute which says, "the Sacraments of Christian Initiation shall be offered in the proper sequence (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist) for children ... which in this Diocese will normally be in their third grade of elementary school" (2017 Synodal Declarations, 6); and,

Whereas I decreed the promulgation of the Declarations and Statutes of the Fourth Diocesan Synod of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois on 26 November 2017; and,

Whereas children in the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois presently normally receive their First Holy Communion in the second grade of elementary school; and,

Whereas the Committee for Transitioning the Sequence and Age of Confirmation has recommended that children in second grade not receive the Most Holy Eucharist for the first time from the Spring of 2019,

Therefore, I, the Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki, by the grace of God and the favor of the Apostolic See, ninth Bishop of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois, do hereby decree that the first reception of the Most Holy Eucharist will not be administered to those in the second grade of elementary school beginning in the Spring of 2019 with due regard to the established timetable and rationale for restoring the order of the Sacraments of Initiation.

Given at the Chancery of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois, on this 2nd day of July in the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and eighteen.



+ Thomas John Paprocki

Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki
Bishop of Springfield in Illinois

Christopher A. House

Very Reverend Christopher A. House
Chancellor



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DECREE ESTABLISHING TIMETABLE AND RATIONALE FOR RESTORING THE PROPER ORDER OF THE RECEPTION OF THE SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION

Whereas “the sacraments of baptism, confirmation, and the Most Holy Eucharist are interrelated in such a way that they are required for full Christian initiation” (c. 842 §2); and,

Whereas the Sacrament of Confirmation “is to be conferred on the faithful about the age of discretion unless the conference of bishops has determined another age” (c. 891); and,

Whereas the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops determined the age at which confirmation is received as “between the age of discretion and about sixteen years of age, within the limits determined by the diocesan bishop and with regard for the legitimate exceptions given in canon 891;” and,

Whereas children are presumed to have attained the use of reason “with the completion of the seventh year” (c. 97 §2; cf. c. 11); and,

Whereas I accepted the recommendation of the Members of the Fourth Synod of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois to adopt a statute which says, “the Sacraments of Christian Initiation shall be offered in the proper sequence (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist) for children ... which in this Diocese will normally be in their third grade of elementary school” (2017 Synodal Declarations, 6); and,

Whereas I decreed the promulgation of the Declarations and Statutes of the Fourth Diocesan Synod of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois on 26 November 2017; and,

Whereas children in the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois presently receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at different ages as determined by the parishes; and,

Whereas the Committee for Transitioning the Sequence and Age of Confirmation has recommended the adoption of the attached timetable and rationale for the restoration of the proper order of the reception of the Sacraments of Initiation,

Therefore, I, the Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki, by the grace of God and the favor of the Apostolic See, ninth Bishop of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois, do

hereby decree that the restoration of the proper order of the reception of the Sacraments of Initiation be achieved according to the attached timetable and rationale.

Given at the Chancery of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois, on this 2nd day of July in the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and eighteen.



+ Thomas John Paprocki

Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki
Bishop of Springfield in Illinois

Christopher A. House

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DECREE REGARDING THE LITURGICAL CELEBRATION AT WHICH CONFIRMATION AND THE FIRST HOLY EUCHARIST ARE ADMINISTERED TO CHILDREN

Whereas “the sacraments of baptism, confirmation, and the Most Holy Eucharist are interrelated in such a way that they are required for full Christian initiation” (c. 842 §2); and,

Whereas as the normative structure of the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*, places the reception of Confirmation prior to the reception of the Most Holy Eucharist for both adults and for children; and,

Whereas I accepted the recommendation of the Members of the Fourth Synod of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois to adopt a statute which says, “the Sacraments of Christian Initiation shall be offered in the proper sequence (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist) for children ... in their third grade of elementary school” (2017 Synodal Declarations, 6); and,

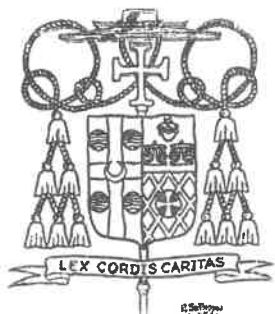
Whereas I decreed the promulgation of the Declarations and Statutes of the Fourth Diocesan Synod of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois on 26 November 2017; and,

Whereas the *Rite of Confirmation* states that, “as a rule, Confirmation takes place within Mass so that the fundamental connection of this Sacrament with all of Christian Initiation, which reaches its culmination in the Communion of the Body and Blood of Christ, may stand out in a clearer light” (n. 13); and,

Whereas the Committee for Transitioning the Sequence and Age of Confirmation has recommended the Sacraments Confirmation and Holy Eucharist be received during the same liturgical celebration,

Therefore, I, the Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki, by the grace of God and the favor of the Apostolic See, ninth Bishop of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois, do hereby decree that the Sacrament of Confirmation must precede first reception of the Holy Eucharist and both sacraments must be administered during the same liturgical celebration by the Diocesan Bishop or a priest delegated by him with the faculty to confirm.

Given at the Chancery of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois, on this 2nd day of July in the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and eighteen.



Thomas John Paprocki

Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki
Bishop of Springfield in Illinois

Christopher A. House

Very Reverend Christopher A. House
Chancellor