

**Definitive Instructions on Confirmation**  
**Circular 2006-34**

**To: All Parish Priests**

As has been agreed upon during our meeting held last December 4-5, 2006 at St. Arnold Janssen Spirituality Center, let me now make the following definitive instructions on the matter of The Sacrament of Confirmation, clarifying my two previous Circulars 2004-45 and 2006-21:

1. Following the norms of Canon 882, the ordinary minister of the Sacrament of Confirmation is the bishop. As in my previous circular, my good self will see to it that parishes have at least one opportunity to have Confirmations annually during or near their fiesta celebrations. This will also be my opportunity to visit our parishes and interact with the faithful.
2. In the spirit of Canon 883, § 2, Parish Priests, have the faculty granted by universal law to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation on two specific cases: (1) to those they baptized who are no longer an infant (those who have completed seven (7) years of age), and (2) to those they admit into full communion with the Church. These cases are however subject to the following conditions:
  - a. That the parish priest himself oversees the pre-baptismal catechesis and performs the baptism of the said candidate.
  - b. That the sacrament of confirmation must follow immediately after baptism.
3. In response to the immediate needs of those preparing for marriage, I now grant special faculty, by this instrument, to all parish priests to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation as Canon 884, § 2 allows. We see the simplification of the process of receiving this Sacrament beneficial to our lay faithful, especially the poor. This faculty cannot be delegated to any other priest.
4. In cases of *periculo mortis* or danger of death mentioned in Canon 883, § 3, the pastor or any presbyter indeed may administer this sacrament.

5. With regards to the confirmation centers mentioned previously, these are now cancelled by virtue of this circular. With this concession to parish priests reinstated, we find the existence of confirmation centers unnecessary.

The pastoral need of the faithful to have greater access to the sacraments constitutes a necessity. I do hope that our lay faithful may regard with earnestness the Sacrament of Confirmation that prepares them toward a fuller participation in Christ.

Given in the Chancery in Fairview, Quezon City, this 13<sup>th</sup> day of December, in the Year of Our Lord, 2006.

**Most Rev. Antonio R. Tobias, DD**  
Bishop

Attested by:

**Rev. Fr. Jaime Z. Lara**  
Chancellor