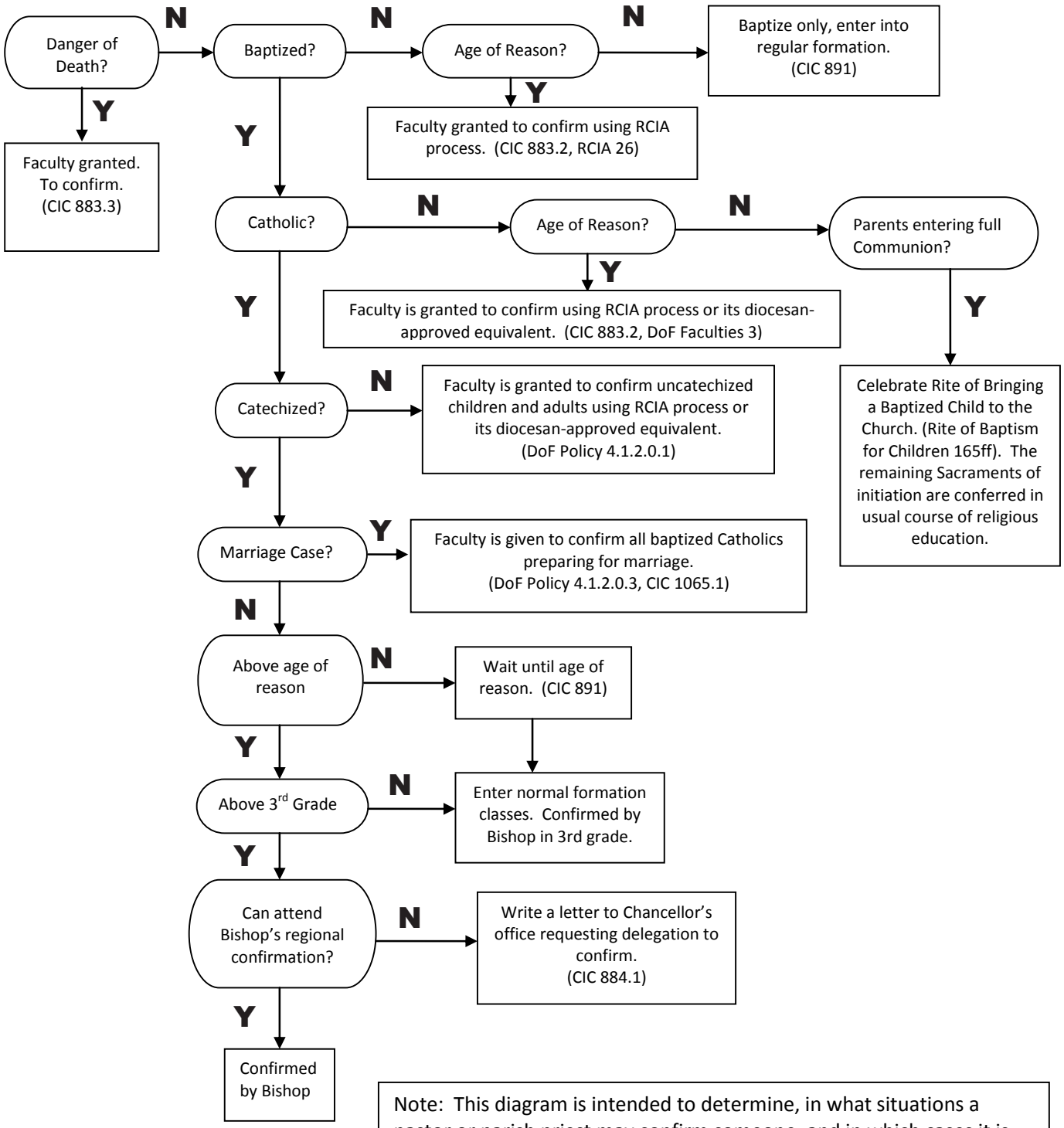
Confirmation Permission for Pastors and Parish Priests



Note: This diagram is intended to determine, in what situations a pastor or parish priest may confirm someone, and in which cases it is necessary to request from the Bishop the faculty to confirm.

A full list of references can be found on the following page.

Diocese of Fargo
2/29/2016

Code of Canon Law:

Can. 882 The ordinary minister of confirmation is a bishop; a presbyter provided with this faculty in virtue of universal law or the special grant of the competent authority also confers this sacrament validly.

Can. 883 The following possess the faculty of administering confirmation by the law itself:

1/ within the boundaries of their jurisdiction, those who are equivalent in law to a diocesan bishop;

2/ as regards the person in question, the presbyter who by virtue of office or mandate of the diocesan bishop baptizes one who is no longer an infant or admits one already baptized into the full communion of the Catholic Church;

3/ as regards those who are in danger of death, the pastor or indeed any presbyter.

Can. 884 §1. The diocesan bishop is to administer confirmation personally or is to take care that another bishop administers it. If necessity requires it, he can grant the faculty to one or more specific presbyters, who are to administer this sacrament.

§2. For a grave cause the bishop and even the presbyter endowed with the faculty of confirming in virtue of the law or the special grant of the competent authority can in single cases also associate presbyters with themselves to administer the sacrament.

Can. 891 The sacrament of confirmation is to be conferred on the faithful at about the age of discretion unless the conference of bishops has determined another age, or there is danger of death, or in the judgment of the minister a grave cause suggests otherwise.

Can. 1065 §1. Catholics who have not yet received the sacrament of confirmation are to receive it before they are admitted to marriage if it can be done without grave inconvenience.

Diocese of Fargo Policy Manual:

4.1.2.0 Beyond the cases already granted by the law, pastors and parish priests are permitted to confirm the baptized, without previous authorization of the local Bishop, in the following circumstances:

1. All those non-catechized Catholic adults and non-catechized children above the age of seven, after a suitable period of formal instruction (RCIA, National Statutes, 25-29).

2. All those adults who were baptized as members of another Christian community, who have undergone a suitable period of formal catechetical instruction, and are received into the Church by some official act outside of the Easter Vigil (RCIA, National Statutes, 30-37).

3. All those Catholic adults preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage "if this can be done without grave inconvenience" (Canon 1065 §1).

Diocese of Fargo Faculties for Priests: Sacraments of Initiation

1. To baptize one who has completed the fourteenth year of age without previously referring the matter to the diocesan bishop, provided that the requirements of the "Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults" (RCIA), or its diocesan-approved equivalent have been met. (Canon 83)

2. To administer the Sacrament of Confirmation to those persons who have attained the use of reason and whom they are baptizing in accord with the requirements of the "Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults" (RCIA) or its diocesan approved equivalent. (Pastors enjoy this faculty by virtue of office.) (Canon 866; Canon 883, 20)

3. To administer the Sacrament of Confirmation to those persons who have attained the use of reason and who are already baptized in another church or ecclesial communion, on the occasion of their profession of faith and admission into full communion with the Catholic Church in accord with the requirements of the "Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults" (RCIA) or its diocesan-approved equivalent. (Canon 883, 2°)

4. To administer the Sacrament of Confirmation at the Easter Vigil to Catholics who, although baptized earlier, have not been reared in the Catholic Church, on the occasion of their reconciliation with the Catholic Church provided that such individuals have participated in the catechesis of the "Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults" (RCIA) or its diocesan-approved equivalent.