



Office of the Bishop

DECREE

Lowering the Reception Age of Confirmation From High School Sophomore to Sixth Grade

Whereas “the faithful are obligated to receive this sacrament [of Confirmation] at the proper time. Parents and pastors of souls, especially pastors of parishes, are to take care that the faithful are properly instructed to receive the sacrament and come to it at the appropriate time” (canon 890); and

Whereas *Strengthening Faith in a Challenging World*, my Pastoral Letter Promulgating *The Way: Youth to Young Adult Initiative* also dated November 1, 2023 articulates both the impetus from the diocesan visioning process begun over five years ago as well as our mutually shared vision: *One Family: Restored in Christ, Equipped for Mission*, specifically identified a concrete goal under the priority of “Growing God’s Family” to address a seemingly more suitable age for the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation within our Diocese; and

Whereas we are at a critical juncture to reevaluate our approach to formation and disciple making within Catholic institutions and families; and

Whereas the USCCB approved complementary legislation for canon 891 of *the Code of Canon Law*, having been granted the necessary *recognitio* of the then Congregation for Bishops dated May 9, 2001, and becoming effective as particular law for the United States of America as of July 1, 2022; and

Whereas the irreplaceable role of parents (and godparents, too) in the formation of our children and youth as well as the ongoing importance of both encounter and memory; and

Whereas a more comprehensive understanding of the Reception of Confirmation within *The Way: Youth to Young Adult Initiative* is enriched by reading my pastoral letter referenced above;

THEREFORE

I hereby Decree that the ordinary year for the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation for children in the Diocese of Kansas City – Saint Joseph will be grade six or roughly eleven years old. This policy completely replaces the previously promulgated policy of 1999 and its subsequent revisions in 2007 and 2009.

Admittedly, though immediately effective as of this November 1, 2023, there will be some few years duration of transitional engagement of preparation by our pastors, parents, catechists, and formators and celebrations of the Sacrament for youth between grades six and ten up to presumably no more than three years in our parishes.

Given at the Chancery
This 1st of November 2023



+ James V. Johnston, Jr.

Most Reverend James V. Johnston, Jr.
Bishop of Kansas City – St. Joseph

Kenneth A. Riley
Very Reverend Kenneth A. Riley
Vicar General – Chancellor