



ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

240 E. ONONDAGA STREET, SYRACUSE, NY 13202-2608

DECREE FOR THE ADAPTATION OF THE CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION

WHEREAS, in view of the rapid spread of COVID-19 and in order to minimize the risk of contracting or spreading the virus, and


WHEREAS, the usual time for the celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation is the Easter Vigil (c. 856), a time this year during which the number of people permitted to gather publicly is limited by government and the Center for Disease Control,


THEREFORE, I, the Bishop of Syracuse, out of pastoral concern for the faithful and under the norms of the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* no. 34, 2 do hereby immediately permit the celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation outside the Easter Vigil this year, on any Sunday within Mass, on or before the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity (7 June 2020).

Along with this permission, I remind all presbyters incardinated in the Diocese of Syracuse (pastors, parochial vicars, chaplains) that they possess the faculty to baptize adults (i.e., those who are fourteen years of age or older) at any time (c. 863). I also remind them that they possess the faculty to confirm those who are no longer infants (i.e., those who are seven years of age or older) and whom they have baptized, or a baptized person whom they have received into the full communion of the Catholic Church (c. 883, 2°).

I also hereby grant to all presbyters incardinated in the Diocese of Syracuse – for this year only – the faculty to confirm Catholics sixteen years of age or older who are uncatechized on any Sunday within Mass between the Easter Vigil (12 April 2020) and the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity (7 June 2020).

Given this twentieth day of March, in the year of our Lord, two-thousand twenty.


Most Reverend Douglas J. Lucia


Mrs. Danielle Cummings
Chancellor

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