

SECRETARIAT FOR EVANGELIZATION & DISCIPLESHIP

CONFIRMATION AGE EXCEPTION REQUEST INFORMATION

APRIL 23, 2024

It is possible for individual people and parishes to request exceptions to the normative age of reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation at age 13-14 in the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston. Please see below for information on what to include in such a request as a parish or individual candidate.

Parishes, collaboratives of parishes, and particular cultural communities may request to continue offering Confirmation at the age of 16. Requests are taken seriously but will be granted in limited and particular circumstances only. Requests from parishes, collaboratives, or communities should include:

- A brief description of your current confirmation preparation process including information on the curriculum used; the expectations or requirements placed on candidates, sponsors, and families; the faith formation leaders and catechists involved; the typical average and current number of participants; how you define success for your preparation process; and information on how you are monitoring that success
- A brief description of your grades 1-8 faith formation offerings including information on the curriculum, expectations for participants and families, and structure of paid and volunteer leadership
- A brief description of your high school youth ministry offerings including information on the goal, structure, participants, and leadership
- An explanation for why you believe maintaining reception of Confirmation at the age of 16 for your parish, collaborative, or community is in the best interests of your parish and the candidates for Confirmation with a particular emphasis on their continued engagement in the life of the faith, growth in discipleship, and participation in the parish or faith community.

Please address requests with the information requested to Bishop Cristiano Barbosa and send it to Patrick Krisak at pkrisak@rcab.org and Diane Campbell at dcampbell@rcab.org.

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Individual people (preferably in cooperation with their families) aged 7 to 13 may submit a request to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation before the normal age of 13-14 **to their parish pastor**. Pastors should take such requests seriously but may or may not grant them. Pastors are welcome but not required to consult their regional Episcopal Vicar or the Secretariat for Evangelization and Discipleship when considering such requests.

Requests from individual candidates should include:

- A brief personal and spiritual biography – please include your name, age, school, parish, a brief description of personal and family habits of prayer, mention of personal hobbies or interests, and some information about personal and family participation in aspects of Christian life including but not limited to activity in your parish
- Indication of support from your parents/guardians and family, if possible, which can be noted in the request from the candidate or included as a separate letter
- Indication of support from your parish faith formation leader or catechist, if possible, which can be noted in the request from the candidate or included as a separate letter
- An explanation for why you are making this request and your understanding of the Sacrament of Confirmation