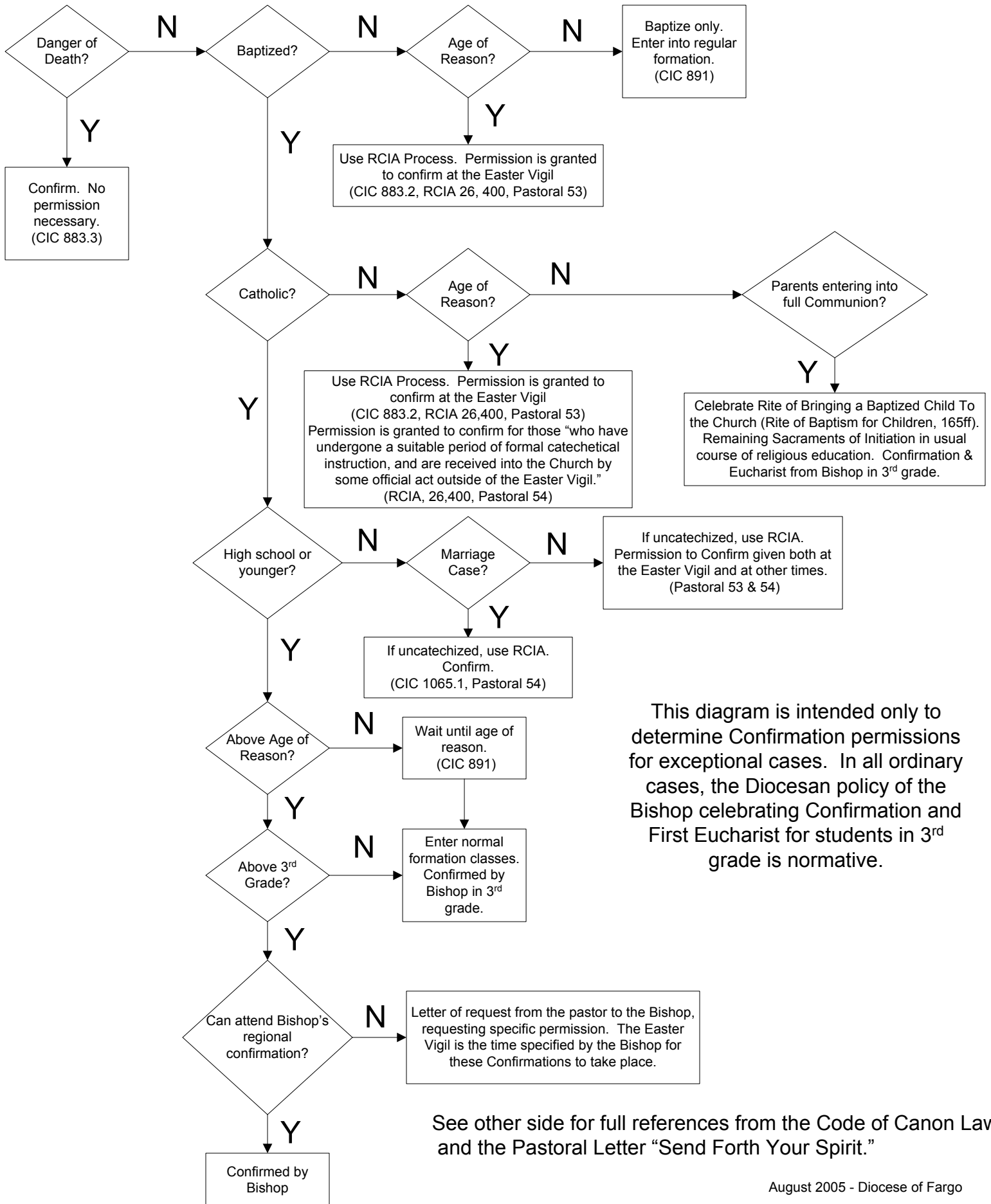


Confirmation Permissions for Pastors & Parish Priests



This diagram is intended only to determine Confirmation permissions for exceptional cases. In all ordinary cases, the Diocesan policy of the Bishop celebrating Confirmation and First Eucharist for students in 3rd grade is normative.

See other side for full references from the Code of Canon Law and the Pastoral Letter "Send Forth Your Spirit."

Code of Canon Law - Confirmation

Can. 882 The ordinary minister of confirmation is a Bishop. A priest can also validly confer this sacrament if he has the faculty to do so, either from the universal law or by way of a special grant from the competent authority.

Can. 883 The following have, by law, the faculty to administer confirmation:

1° within the confines of their jurisdiction, those who in law are equivalent to a diocesan Bishop;

2° in respect of the person to be confirmed, the priest who by virtue of his office or by mandate of the diocesan Bishop baptises one who is no longer an infant or admits a person already baptised into full communion with the catholic Church;

3° in respect of those in danger of death, the parish priest or indeed any priest.

Can. 884 §1 The diocesan Bishop is himself to administer confirmation or to ensure that it is administered by another Bishop. If necessity so requires, he may grant to one or several specified priests the faculty to administer this sacrament.

§2 For a grave reason the Bishop, or the priest who by law or by special grant of the competent authority has the faculty to confirm, may in individual cases invite other priests to join with him in administering the sacrament.

Can. 891 The sacrament of confirmation is to be conferred on the faithful at about the age of discretion, unless the Episcopal Conference has decided on a different age, or there is a danger of death or, in the judgement of the minister, a grave reason suggests otherwise.

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

§2 So that the sacrament of marriage may be fruitfully received, spouses are earnestly recommended that they approach the sacraments of penance and the blessed Eucharist.

“Send Forth Your Spirit”

Particular Situations

53. By universal Church law, pastors and parish priests are to confirm the baptized, without previous authorization of the local bishop, in the following circumstances:

- all those in danger of death, including infants* (**CIC 883 § 3**)

* It should be noted that infants and all those below the age of discretion are never recipients of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick (**CIC 1004-1005**).

- all those adults, including uncatechized Catholics or those members of another Christian community, who have been properly prepared catechetically, liturgically, and pastorally and are fully initiated at the solemn vigil of Easter (**CIC 883 § 2, RCIA 75**)

- all those children, either baptized in another Christian community or unbaptized, who have reached catechetical age (seven years and above) and are fully initiated at the solemn vigil of Easter (**RCIA 256, National Statutes for the Catechumenate 18**)

54. By particular law for the Diocese of Fargo, pastors and parish priests are permitted to confirm the baptized, without previous authorization of the local bishop, in the following circumstances:

- all those non-catechized Catholic adults, after a suitable period of formal instruction (**RCIA, National Statutes 25-29**)

- 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**)

- all those Catholic adults preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage who are not confirmed and freely petition for the Sacrament of Confirmation, recalling that Confirmation, strictly speaking, is not a requirement for marriage (**CIC 1065 §1**)