

Memo

To: All Priests/Confirmation Directors

From: Rev. Jonathan Gaspar

Date: May 4, 2016

Re: Revised Order of Confirmation

Beginning on May 15, 2016 (Pentecost Sunday) a new translation of the Order of Confirmation will be used throughout the United States.

Two key texts of the ritual have not changed in this new translation. The Bishop's assent to the profession of faith remains as before: "This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church. We are proud to profess it in Christ Jesus our Lord" (nos. 23, 40). Likewise, the translators found no need to propose a modification of the text of the words used at the conferral of the Sacrament: "**N**., be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit" (nos. 27, 44, 55-56).

Most of the text, however, is noticeably distinct from that of the current translation. For example, many of the conventions and vocabulary of the *Roman Missal* will be quickly recognizable when reading the Confirmation ritual: "And with your spirit," "a suitable chant may be sung," "Bow down for the blessing," "the Universal Prayer," and so forth. Even though the changes are not dramatic in most instances, there are some places where the changes are notable, beginning with the title: until now the *Rite of Confirmation*, the book is henceforth the *Order of Confirmation*. The change that will perhaps draw the most attention is the enumeration of the gifts of the Holy Spirit in the oration at the Laying On of Hands, which now joins the English translation of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* in using more traditional names for some of the gifts – counsel, fortitude, piety, and the fear of the Lord.

Of particular note is a rubrical change: until now some bishops have invited concelebrating priests to impose hands along with the bishop during the laying on of hands. The revised rubrics specify that **concelebrating priests now only lay hands when they will also assist with the anointing with Sacred Chrism. This would only be done in those situations when there are large numbers of those to be confirmed.**