

Appendix 14: Age for Confirmation

USCCB Complementary Norms Regarding Canon 891 – Age for Confirmation

On November 15, 2000, the Latin Rite *de iure* members of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops approved complimentary legislation for canon 801 of the Code of Canon Law for the Latin Rite dioceses of the United States.

The action was granted *recognitio* by the Congregation for Bishops in accord with article 82 of the Apostolic Constitution *Pastor Bonus* and issued by the Decree of the Congregation for Bishops signed by His Excellency, Most Reverend Francesco Monterisi, Secretary, and dated May 9, 2001.

The National Conference of Catholic Bishops, in accord with the prescriptions of canon 891, hereby decrees that the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Latin rite shall be conferred between the age of discretion and about sixteen years of age, within the limits determined by the diocesan bishop and with regard for the legitimate exceptions given in canon 891.

August 21, 2001

From Bishop Kagan:

As of July 1, 2014, all of our young people must receive this Sacrament by no later than the 2nd semester of the sophomore year of high school. While our young people may receive the Sacrament of Confirmation from the age of reason (age 7), I leave to the Pastors to make the needed adjustments, if necessary, to their current preparation programs to accommodate the new and established maximum age for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

While this is a diocesan regulation, it is not of Divine Law and thus, it allows for an exception. However, a Pastor would have to have a most serious reason for seeking, in writing, such an exception.

February 13, 2013