



DIocese OF ST. PETERSBURG

Pastoral Center

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Memorandum

To: Pastors and Parish RCIA Coordinators

From: Douglas Reatini, Office of Worship

Date: August 24, 2018

Subject: *Revised* Norms for Celebrating the RCIA within the Diocese of St. Petersburg

At the August 7th RCIA Leadership Forum, a revision to the RCIA Norms for the Diocese of St. Petersburg was presented to the clergy and parish RCIA leaders who were present. Following a meeting in mid-May with a few parish RCIA Directors, Bishop Parkes felt it important to make a few pastoral accommodations to the Norms that were related to the variety of sacramental needs parishes often find within families. Therefore, in the enclosed 2018 revision of the Norms, you will see there is a new section, **5. Regarding Families with Varied Sacramental Needs**. The following example will help to illustrate this section:

1. If one or more members of a family is an adult catechumen (i.e., canonical age 7+) preparing for the three sacraments of initiation (baptism-confirmation-Eucharist) and there are previously baptized family members who are at the same time preparing to be received into full Communion with the Catholic Church, every effort should be made to pastorally initiate the family together at the same Easter Vigil.
2. Also, if by chance, there is a baptized Catholic in the above family scenario (or a variation of) who is preparing for the sacrament of Confirmation, the pastor could pastorally request of the Bishop the faculty to confirm this individual at the Easter Vigil with his/her family. This would not be a blanket faculty to confirm all other Catholics at the Easter Vigil, just this particular individual candidate.
3. In the afore mentioned senario, the parish would use the "Additional (Combined) Rites" found in RCIA Appendix I – *Celebration at the Easter Vigil of the Sacraments of Initiation and of the Rite of Reception into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church*.

Please share this memorandum and the revised Norms with other clergy and staff who are associated with sacramental and faith formation at your parish.

If you have questions, please feel free to call me or Sylvia Sánchez at (727) 341-6828 or email us at DJR@dosp.org or SLS@dosp.org.