



## FACULTIES RELATING TO THE EASTER VIGIL

Diocese of Great Falls-Billings

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According to the Faculties of the Diocese (page 5) Faculties of Pastors:

“To baptize an adult or admit a baptized adult into full communion with the Catholic Church. (The law itself grants the additional faculty to confirm the candidate during these rites.)”

“To admit into full communion and to confirm an adult who has been baptized in the Latin Catholic Church but was brought up in or adhered to a non-Catholic religion.”

“To administer the Sacrament of Confirmation to a baptized adult Latin Catholic who has completed the various stages of the Catechumenate according to the Rite of the Catechumenate approved by the U. S. Bishops.”

Therefore priests **have the faculty** to confirm those who have completed the various stages of the Catechumenate, whether they...:

- a. are seeking full initiation (never been baptized);
- b. are seeking full communion with the Catholic Church (non-Catholics joining the Church); or
- c. were baptized Catholic and are seeking to return to the practice of the faith after a catechetical period.

The U.S. Statutes for the Catechumenate require that when a child, who has reached the age of reason, is baptized or makes a profession of faith, that child is also to be confirmed and receive first Eucharist. Only those under age 7 are to be baptized only. (This applies year-round.)

**The above examples are people who receive full initiation at the Easter Vigil.**

The Bishop must grant the faculty to confirm in any other circumstance. For example, if the pastor has a confirmation candidate who has been a practicing Catholic all along and is not an appropriate participant in the RCIA process, but for whatever reason was not confirmed in the past, he may write to the Bishop for permission to confirm such a candidate at the Easter Vigil (or any other convenient time for a good reason). The request must be in writing and made by the pastor himself.



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**Reminders and  
Triduum Notes**

**Time for the Easter Vigil:** Generally in eastern Montana, it should begin sometime after 8:30 p.m. The liturgy requires that the Easter Vigil begins in darkness and it must conclude before sunrise on Easter morning. Pastoral plans should follow this norm.

**Lay-Led Celebrations:** While it is obvious that only a priest may celebrate the Liturgy on Holy Thursday and the Easter Vigil, the same is to be said of Good Friday Veneration of the Cross and Distribution of Communion. Deacons and lay presiders, according to the rubrics, are directed to celebrate the Liturgy of the Hours on Holy Thursday or Good Friday, or Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, in the absence of a priest. Eucharist may not be distributed during these celebrations.

**Viaticum:** Outside of Mass, Eucharist may be given only as viaticum during the Triduum.

**Funerals:** No Funeral Masses are permitted on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday. Funeral Masses may be celebrated on the other days of Holy Week. For a pressing pastoral need, it is possible to celebrate a funeral outside of Mass and/or a burial on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday or Easter Sunday, but the Funeral Mass itself must be delayed until after Easter.

See accompanying instructions regarding Faculties for Completion of Initiation.

Check the Ordo for other details.