



To: Parish Priests, Parish Life Directors, Catechetics/Religious Education Coordinators, Confirmation preparation teams, Confirmation Catechists

From: Koreen Hrizai, Coordinator of Catechetics

Topic: Information regarding the Celebration of Confirmation 2020

I am happy to provide you with this package of information as we draw near to our preparation time of Lent. Your dedicated and precious work in the parishes in accompanying people in relationship with Jesus and the whole Catholic Christian community is very much appreciated.

Please find included in this package:

- ❖ Frequently Asked Questions
- ❖ Some details for the celebration of Confirmation with Archbishop Albert LeGatt presiding
- ❖ Sample letter to Candidates/Parents to assist in writing a letter to Archbishop LeGatt
- ❖ Short biography of Archbishop Albert LeGatt. D.D.

Reminder there are many fruitful opportunities within our archdiocese to assist you and those you serve. I encourage you to invite others to deepen their relationship with Christ and his Holy Church daily in prayer, in service, in unity. Visit and share our website www.archsaintboniface.ca “Like” and invite others to “Like” our Archdiocesan [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/ArchSaintBoniface/) page <https://www.facebook.com/ArchSaintBoniface/> to be connected and informed.

We continue this year to encourage candidates to grow in understanding of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, Fruits of the Holy Spirit, Corporal and Spiritual Acts/Works of Mercy. Reviewing the scripture readings that will be used at the Mass in which they will be confirmed is a helpful way to prepare their hearts.

On the diocesan website in the Catechetics section under Confirmation 2020 there are additional resources to assist you, the parents and the candidates in deepening real lived responses to our baptism. Together as catechists and the entire Christian Community may we try to bridge the faith life gap and give relevance to the Gospel message in today’s context for the Confirmation candidates and others as well. I pray for you, the bearers of Good News, and the Confirmation Candidates in our parish communities. I am at your service to assist, please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Yours in Faith,

Koreen

Koreen Hrizai

- Please note a copy of the First Reading (there is no second reading) and Gospel Reading to be used (except Sundays & Solemnities) are included as a second attachment
First Reading: Ephesians 1.3a, 4a, 13-19a Gospel Reading: Matthew 5.1-12a . I will also upload this package and the readings to the website Catechetics section for you to access.

Feb 2020 kh

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Confirmation in the Archdiocese of Saint Boniface

Do Confirmation candidates write a letter to the Archbishop and what should it say?

It is a common practice for Confirmation candidates to write a letter to their archbishop during their time of preparation indicating their desire to be confirmed. Attached is a letter with some guidance for the writing of this letter. It is recommended that the catechists, pastors or coordinators collect the letters and send the letters with a cover letter to the office of Archbishop LeGatt at least two weeks prior to the date of Confirmation.

Attn: Archbishop LeGatt, D.D.

Re: Confirmation Letters

151 de la Cathédrale Avenue Winnipeg, MB R2H 0H6

The cover letter should indicate the parish, some description of the confirmation group and short description of preparation. It may include personal witnessing or examples of growth in the candidates, families or catechists through the process.

Does the Archbishop sign the certificates given for Confirmation?

Certificates may be signed by Archbishop LeGatt. Certificates (fifteen or less) may be signed at the parish just prior to the Confirmation Mass. A larger number of certificates (sixteen or more) should be sent to Archbishop LeGatt with the letters two weeks before with a contact name and number. Archbishop LeGatt's secretary, Alice Lemoine, will contact you by phone when the certificates are signed and may be picked up at the reception desk 151 de la Cathédrale Avenue. Please ensure the contact name and number is included.

I heard that Confirmation candidates visit the archbishop, please tell me more about this.

Prior to Confirmation, candidates and parents are invited to the Cathedral, the principal church of the archdiocese, to meet with Archbishop LeGatt, our shepherd of our archdiocese of Saint Boniface. This visit will bring together young people from other parishes also preparing for the sacrament of Confirmation. The date will be given from Archbishop LeGatt with consideration to many schedules. It will be approximately a two-hour visit. **PLEASE NOTE:** Some visits will take place at both the Cathedral (190 de la Cathédrale Avenue) and the Archdiocesan Centre formerly referred to as the Archbishop's residence (151 de la Cathédrale Avenue). Some visits will take place only at the 151 de la Cathédrale Avenue location. The location for your date will be communicated to your parish contact and on the website.

What about readings for the Confirmation Mass, how do we know which readings will be proclaimed?

The readings for Confirmation Masses are included as a second attachment. Readings on Sundays or solemnities will be the readings of the day. Please take time with the candidates and their families to reflect on the readings prior to the Mass.

Will Archbishop LeGatt use the sprinkling rite during the Confirmation Mass?

Yes, since the sprinkling rite as an Introductory Rite is particularly appropriate in a celebration sealing Baptism, Archbishop LeGatt will be using the sprinkling rite at all celebrations of Confirmation. Therefore, please have holy water in a vessel and aspergillum (sprinkling tool) available.

How should the candidates dress for the Confirmation Mass?

Candidates are expected to dress in a clean and appropriate manner to gathering within the Christian community. In some parishes the use of albs or gowns has been the practice. This practice may continue as is with the suggestion that albs or gowns be white in colour in remembrance of the baptismal garment. This is also a visible way to emphasize the connection of baptism and confirmation.

Do Confirmation candidates process in a group during the gathering song?

Candidates may process in as a group during the gathering some or they may be in their pews depending on parish preference.

Is there a seating preference for the Confirmation candidates?

Seating will vary depending on the architecture of the church. Seating arrangements should consider that for the rite of Confirmation each candidate will approach Archbishop LeGatt with their sponsor and families. During the homily Archbishop LeGatt will dialogue with the candidates so seating should be conducive of this.

Can pictures or video be taken?

This is a prayerful celebration and all those gathered are invited and entitled to engage fully without distractions of movement and flashes. During the Mass pictures and/or video will only be permitted by one person designated by the parish. This person should be available to meet briefly with Archbishop LeGatt before the Confirmation Mass. Immediately following the Mass, catechists or coordinators will organize one group photo and one individual photo for each candidate with Archbishop LeGatt.

Is there fellowship or a gathering planned after the Confirmation Mass?

After the Mass and the organized photo-taking with Archbishop LeGatt, all the newly confirmed young people and the faithful will gather in the hall or gathering space for fellowship planned by the parish. This time together as community is also an important part of the overall celebration of the sacrament of Confirmation, a sacrament of initiation into the community of believers.

The Confirmation candidates in our parish made stoles with their confirmation names and symbols in the past and I've heard some other information about this, please tell me more about this.

A sash, rather than a stole, may be made if a community desire. The use of the candidate's baptismal name is encouraged and gives an appropriate emphasis to the link between the sacraments of baptism and confirmation. The sash, if used, should flow from the right shoulder over the chest fastening at the back or left hip area. (Please note: A stole is not used because it is a symbol of ordination. It is a garment worn by a deacon, priest or bishop.)

These commonly asked questions and answers are meant to assist you as you prepare within your individual parishes. Any specific questions or comments may be directed to the Koreen Hrizai, Coordinator, Archdiocese of Saint Boniface, Service of Catechetics.

Feb 2020 kh

Following are some details for the celebration of Confirmation within the Archdiocese of Saint Boniface with Archbishop Albert LeGatt presiding:

How is Confirmation celebrated?

Confirmation will be celebrated within the Mass. Please refer to the Rite of Confirmation, a copy should be in your parish or you may contact the Office of Catechetics for the English sector.

Liturgy of the Word

If confirmation is celebrated at a Sunday Mass, the Sunday readings are used. If confirmation is celebrated at another time, the bishop may choose from a large and rich selection of readings for celebrating confirmation. It is recommended that families and candidates study and pray with the readings that will be used in the celebration. You may receive the reading references from your catechist, coordinator or parish priest during your preparation time once they are sent by Archbishop LeGatt.

Presentation of the Candidates

The celebration begins to focus on confirmation right after the gospel. Someone from the parish presents the candidates (refer to the “Rite of Confirmation”). If the group is not too large their names are announced. The candidates are asked to stand and remain standing until all candidates’ names are called.

Homily or instruction

Archbishop LeGatt then gives a homily, in the form of a dialogue with the candidates. Knowing the seven gifts and twelve fruits of the Holy Spirit as well understanding and living out the Corporal and Spiritual Acts/Works of Mercy is important. Words into action. What actions does the candidate do that shows courage? What are examples of right judgement that the candidate has witnessed in school or at home? In school or on the sports field how does the candidate live out the fruits with specific actions of kindness and gentleness? There are *many resources available on our archdiocesan website to supplement the Confirmation program resources.*

Renewal of baptismal promises

After the homily, the candidates are asked to renew their baptismal promises. They might remember doing this at the Easter Vigil, at Easter Sunday Mass, or when infants are baptized at a regular Sunday Mass. It is done here to highlight the link between Baptism and Confirmation and Eucharist. The candidates will be asked to stand. Together the candidates answer, “I do” clearly and confidently to each question.

Laying on of hands

The bishop (or priest) then invites everyone present to pray with him on behalf of the candidates and everyone prays silently for a short period of time. Then he and any other

priests extend their hands over the group and pray for them. The prayer asks the Holy Spirit to guide the candidates and asks for seven special spiritual gifts, known as the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Refer to the “Rite of Confirmation”.

Anointing with chrism

When the candidates come forward to the bishop, their sponsor and families accompany them. Next the sponsor places their right hand on their candidates’ right shoulder and clearly tells the bishop the candidate’s name (name tags clearly visible may also be used). Parents are also invited to place a hand on the candidate, as space permits. The candidate will place his/her right hand on the crosier (staff) alongside Archbishop LeGatt’s hand. Candidates for confirmation use their baptismal name. The archbishop then anoints the candidate. He dips his right thumb in the sacred chrism and makes the sign of the cross on the candidate’s forehead. He says the candidate’s name and then, “Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.” The candidate answers, “Amen.” Candidates may be reminded to make eye contact and be sure that their response is clearly audible throughout the ceremony.

Note: the rite permits singing during the anointing. However, consideration should be given to silence so that all the faithful gathered may hear the words as candidates are anointed. Soft instrumental music may accompany the anointing. A hymn reflecting ‘anointing’ may follow immediately after the anointing has been completed.

Sign of peace

Finally, the archbishop (or priest) says the word that Jesus said to his disciples the first time he saw them after he rose from the dead, when he breathed in them and bestowed the Holy Spirit on them saying, “Peace be with you.” The candidate will answer, “And with your spirit.” The candidates will receive instructions prior from the catechist, coordinator or pastor about when to return to their seats.

General intercessions

The community then prays for the needs of the candidates and of the world using the same form as at Sunday Mass.

Liturgy of the Eucharist

The liturgy of the Eucharist begins. Some of the candidates may be asked to bring the gifts of bread and wine to the altar. At communion time the reception of communion will follow that which is practical to the seating arrangements in the church, sometimes the newly confirmed will receive communion before the rest of the faithful gathered.

SAMPLE (Copy and paste text, edit for your own community onto your own letterhead)

Dear Parents and Candidates,

The candidate seeking to be confirmed in the faith needs to write a letter to Archbishop LeGatt. The points that should be considered when writing this letter are as outlined below:

1. It should be neatly hand written or printed but may be typed out. If the candidate is using the computer for the letter, he/she may include graphics or photos as well to personalize the letter as much as possible. The purpose of the letter is to request Confirmation and be a way for Archbishop LeGatt to know the candidate better. Things like how the candidate lives out his/her faith on a daily basis, does he/she pray, what prayers does he/she like, what is enjoyed in Catechism classes, at Mass, or during religion class at school, is there a story from the bible or reading that you like a lot? Let him know you and why you want to be confirmed. Discuss this with your parents.
2. The letter can be written in either English or French, whichever you prefer. You should address it Dear Archbishop Albert LeGatt, or Dear Archbishop LeGatt, or Your Grace.
3. Ask him to confirm you in your letter. Tell him what gifts that God has given to you to share with your family, your friends, your parish, and this world. You can use the gifts (see Isaiah 11:2-3, Catechism of the Catholic Church #1831) or fruits (see Galatians 5:22-23, Catechism of the Catholic Church #1832) of the Spirit to help guide you and maybe offer other gifts or strengths that are characteristics that you have that are like Jesus. Perhaps you have hopes and dreams for living out your life as a baptized Christian that you would share with him or hopes and dreams for the future of the church and world.
4. You may want to thank him for reading your letter, or for inviting you for a visit prior to Confirmation, maybe you will thank him for praying for you or ask him to pray for you or someone you know (maybe you'll tell him you'll pray for him or that you have prayed for him!)

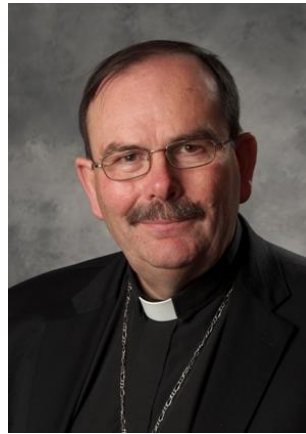
Please give the letters to me by the next meeting date so that I may give them to Archbishop LeGatt with the letter I have describing our group.

It is my hope that if you have any questions or concerns you will contact me or Father. The church community is here to support and encourage you to live out your call to Christ in baptism and spread the Gospel message as parents and young people.

The journey of faith we share leads us to witness in our parish community and our homes the goodness of God and peace of Christ to each other. May this time of preparation within your family give each of you the strength and desire to continue to seek out ways to deepen your own journey of faith. May it bring you greater awareness of the Holy Spirit ever present in our midst.

Yours in Faith,

Short Biography: Most Reverend Albert LeGatt, D.D. Archbishop of Saint Boniface



Most Reverend Albert LeGatt was born on May 6, 1953 in Melfort, SK, to Joseph and Emma LeGatt and attended school at St. Brieux (1959-1967) and at Le Collège Notre Dame, St. Louis, SK (1967-1971).

He studied at Le Collège de St. Boniface (University of Manitoba) obtaining a Bachelor of Arts (with majors in Philosophy and French) in 1974.

For the next three years he served as a CUSO (Canadian University Services Overseas) volunteer in Ghana, Africa, teaching French in a secondary school.

He entered Le Grand Séminaire de Québec in 1977 pursuing studies in theology at l'Université Laval. He was ordained to the priesthood on June 19, 1983 by Bishop Blaise Morand in St. Brieux, SK. He served as assistant pastor, then pastor in a number of parishes in Prince Albert (1983-2000).

He pursued his studies in Pastoral Liturgy at the University Notre Dame, Southbend, Indiana, USA (2000-2001). He was involved in the Diocese of Prince Albert as co-ordinator of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission, Director of Vocations and Consultor.

He was named Bishop of the Diocese of Saskatoon on July 26, 2001 by Pope John Paul II and ordained on October 5, 2001 in St. Patrick's Church, Saskatoon, by Bishop Blaise Morand. He has served on the Catholic Aboriginal Council, the Episcopal Commission for Liturgy and the Episcopal Commission for Catechesis of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. He currently serves on the Episcopal Commission for Christian Unity, Religious Relations with the Jews, and Interfaith Dialogue.

On July 3, 2009 he was appointed Archbishop of the Archdiocese of St. Boniface, Manitoba.



Heraldry Description of the Coat of Arms of His Grace Most Reverend Albert LeGatt, D.D. Archbishop of Saint Boniface

The **Colour Blue** evokes the Virgin Mary, principal patroness of the Archdiocese of Saint-Boniface under her title of the Immaculate Conception. It also represents the blue prairie skies.

The **Ermine** is found in the coat of arms of Brittany, the home of Archbishop Albert LeGatt's ancestors. This represents the heritage of Christian faith and Breton culture passed on from generation to generation.

The **Sheaf of Wheat** highlights Christ's teaching, *"Unless a grain of wheat dies, it remains only a single grain, but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest"* (John 12:24). It also highlights the Church's Eucharist wherein the scattered grains are brought together and made one bread to be shared so the Church itself might be brought together from the ends of the earth into the

Kingdom. It also represents the prairie provinces of Manitoba and Saskatchewan and Archbishop LeGatt's early farm background.

The **White Band** at the middle of the coat of arms represents the Red River. It was on the banks of the Red River that Bishop Joseph Norbert Provencher, first bishop of Saint-Boniface, established the first Catholic mission in the Canadian West. It also represents the waters of baptism and the abundance of new life in Christ given to us through this sacrament wherein we are made members of the Body of Christ forever.

The **Dove** is the symbol of the Holy Spirit, source of the Church's unity in its faith, hope and love (Ephesians 4:2-6).

The Motto: **Ut Unum Sint, "That They May Be One" (John 17:22)** highlights the prayer of Christ and the ministry of the Archbishop called to be servant and presider of the Church's unity in Christ. This motto was chosen at his ordination to the priesthood in June 19, 1983 and has always guided his ministry.

The **Hat with Ten Tassels** on either side of the Metropolitan Cross is an emblem of the hierarchical status of the archiepiscopal office.

The **Pallium** is the sign of the archiepiscopal ministry in union with the Holy See of Rome.