

September 20, 2007

Dear Brother Priests,

As we have discussed frequently, the growth of prison populations has made Criminal Justice Ministry a major evangelization challenge throughout our local church.

I wish to accommodate your pastoral care for the imprisoned as generously as possible. For this reason, I will grant the faculty to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation, for each separate occasion, to any priest with diocesan faculties who requests such faculty from me each time he wishes to confirm inmates.

As with baptism (or reception into the Church), it is important that each person to be confirmed has received adequate preparation. If the laity of your parish/mission is offering such catechesis please consult them to ascertain the state of preparedness, and documentation of baptism, prior to the celebration of confirmation.

The request should be in writing or by email providing the name of the priest to be delegated and the proposed date (should the date need to be changed, the delegation remains valid). **Note:** By law, the delegation to confirm can be granted only by the bishop; please secure the delegation from me well in advance of the celebration date, as the delegation cannot be obtained from anyone else, including the Vicar General and Episcopal Vicars. Should the date for confirmation arrive and you have forgotten to secure delegation and I am not available for delegation, then you may, of course, request **Monsignor Michael Jamail**, or **Father Bennie Patillo** to celebrate the sacrament as they possess habitual faculties to confirm when necessity arises.

**Note:** The confirmation (s) should be entered in the sacramental register of the territorial parish in which the prison is located, as also with baptism and reception into full communion. You may obtain a copy of the ritual for confirmation from the office of the Vicar General

Thank you for your generous collaboration in our ministry to those who are imprisoned and unable to receive the sacraments in our parishes and missions.

Sincerely in Christ,



Most Reverend Curtis J. Guillory, S.V.D., D.D.  
Diocese of Beaumont

CJG/gfs

Cc: Deacon Harry Davis, Director, Criminal Justice Ministry  
Mrs. Rosalind Sanchez, Director, Office of Worship  
Deacons and Seminarians