

Reception of Children—*with Confirmation!*

The rites surrounding initiation of adults and children are often confusing. One such case is the reception of children, or those who have attained the use of reason, about the age of seven. When a pastor or chaplain baptizes one at or beyond this age or receives one already baptized, he *must* confirm the child (or, for the purposes of RCIA, the “adult”):

- “By universal Church law, the pastor or chaplain can and must administer the sacrament of confirmation to those persons who are no longer infants and whom he baptizes. (cf. Cann. 530, 1^o; 566, §1; 882; 883, 2^o and 885, §2; *RCIA*, Nos. 14, 24, 215 and 305)
- “By universal Church law, the pastor or chaplain can and must confirm those persons who have attained the use of reason but already have been baptized in another church or ecclesial communion, when they are received by him into full communion with the Catholic Church. (cf. Cann. 883, 2^o and 885, §2; *RCIA*, No.481; *NSC*, No.35)

In short: do not delay a child’s confirmation until he would be the age of a Catholic candidate!