



Wednesday 22 June, 2005

To All Pastors and Administrators of the Archdiocese of Atlanta:

After seeking the advice of the Council of Priests I have decided to revise the faculty which currently permits Pastors to confirm only during the Easter season without the need for delegation from me or from my office. And so, as of the date of this letter I rescind the previous faculty to confirm and I extend the following faculty to Pastors and Administrators by reason of their office:

By virtue of c. 882 of the Code of Canon Law I hereby grant the Pastors and Administrators of the Archdiocese of Atlanta the faculty to confirm within the territory of their parishes when it seems pastorally expedient to do so and when in their opinion circumstances warrant such an action. This faculty includes the right to sub-delegate.

I rely on the good judgment of Pastors and Administrators to decide whether or not to exercise this faculty within their own parishes. If you as a Pastor or Administrator feel that you have a good reason to confirm outside your territory, please contact the pastor of that parish and request sub-delegation. You may also grant sub-delegation if it is requested of you. Sub-delegation should not be presumed but should be granted by the Pastor or Administrator of the parish in which the confirmation is to take place. If there are any doubts, you may of course contact my office.

Finally, I would like to say a word about record keeping in such cases. As one of the Sacraments of Initiation, recording the conferral of this sacrament is of great importance. Such records are always to be kept in the territorial parish where the Sacrament is conferred. This should present no problem when a Pastor or Administrator has confirmed within his own parish. However, greater care must be taken in cases of sub-delegation to see that a record is made in the appropriate territorial parish.

I remain deeply grateful to all of our priests for the vigilant and generous pastoral service that you provide for the Faithful of the Archdiocese of Atlanta. You remain in my prayers with sincere esteem and gratitude.

Fraternally yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wilton D. Gregory". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping flourish at the end.

+Wilton D. Gregory,
Archbishop of Atlanta