

**Concerning**  
***the faculty to confirm***  
***baptized Christians***  
***being received into The Full Communion of the Catholic Church***

**Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults #481 [Part II - 5/1988 edition 6/revised edition]**

It is the office of bishop to receive baptized Christians into the full communion of the Catholic Church. But a priest to whom the bishop entrusts the celebration of the rite has the faculty of confirming the candidate within the rite of reception, unless the person received has already been validly confirmed.

*This directive gets codified into law in Canon #883.2.*

*The faculty to confirm in the case of a baptized Christian being received into the full communion of the Catholic Church is not dependent upon whether the person is catechized or uncatechized when he/she begins the process.*

*Episcopalians and Lutherans do not have valid confirmation. This is a reference to Orthodox Christians, Old Catholics, Polish National Catholics and Society of St. Pius X.*

**Code of Canon Law #883:2**

The following have the faculty of administering confirmation by the law itself:

2. With regard to the person in question, the presbyter who by reason of office or mandate of the diocesan bishop baptizes one who is no longer an infant or one already baptized whom he admits into the full communion of the Catholic Church.

*It is a normal procedure that when one is assigned as a pastor or parochial vicar in a parish he receives the faculty to baptize persons who are no longer infants and to receive baptized Christians into the full communion of the Catholic Church. With this faculty, the faculty to confirm is automatically given by virtue of the liturgical law. Thus, the faculties from the Bishop do not have to mention this explicitly.*

**Code of Canon Law #885:2**

A presbyter who has this faculty must use it for those in whose favor the faculty was granted.

*It is the right of the person being received to celebrate fully the remaining initiation sacraments. Thus, the presbyter celebrating the rite is obliged to use the faculty to confirm. He is not allowed to deny the rights of the one being received.*

**US National Statute (RCIA, Appendix III) #35**

*[It is not clear if this statute has been retained as a Norm in the revised edition.]*

...When the bishop...entrusts the celebration of the rite to a presbyter, the priest receives from the law itself (Canon 883:2) the faculty to confirm the candidate for reception and is obliged to use it (Canon 885:2); he may not be prohibited from exercising this faculty.

*Just as the priest who has the faculty to confirm is obliged to use it less he deny the rights of the one being received, so is the bishop not allowed to deny the person their rights by prohibiting the priest from confirming them. If the bishop wishes to confirm the person(s) himself, he must retain unto himself the faculty to receive them into the full communion.*