

IOANNES FRANCISCUS

Divina Miseratione et



Apostolicae Sedis Gratia

EPISCOPUS MARQUETTENSIS

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION POLICY FOR HOME SCHOOLED STUDENTS

A pastor is obliged to take care that the lay members of the Christian faithful are instructed in the truths of the faith by catechetical formation (cf. can. 528). The Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds parents that they are the principal and first educators of their children (CCC 1653). They have the obligation and right to ensure the physical, social, cultural, moral, and religious education of their children (cf. cann. 226 §2, 1136). At baptism, parents are reminded that they are the first teachers of their child in the ways of the faith and they are encouraged to be the best of teachers (*Rite of Baptism for Children*, n. 105).

Pastors are to foster and promote the role of parents in their obligation to form their children by word and example in faith and in the practice of Christian life (cf. cann. 774 §2, 776). They are to ensure that children are prepared for the sacraments of penance, first Holy Communion and Confirmation, through catechetical formation for an appropriate period of time in accordance with the norms given by the diocesan bishop (cf. cann. 777, 2°, 914).

Parents who have chosen to home school their children have decided that they want to be the principal and first educators of their children in all things academic, social relationships and matters of faith.

To facilitate pastors and parents with these duties, I issue the following norms for home schooled children:

1. Pastors should interview parents and review the materials they are using pertaining to catechetical formation and approve them for use;
2. The parish should provide materials being used by catechists in the parish faith formation program to the parents of home schooled children as supplemental material;
3. Home schooled children should be invited and expected to attend special extracurricular parish faith formation programs and events; especially retreats, pastor interviews, first penance and practice sessions;
4. Home schooled children should be treated in the same manner that Catholic school students are treated in regard to preparation and reception of the Sacraments of Penance, first Holy Communion and Confirmation.

In accord with canons 8 §2, 29, 391§1, and 777 I hereby decree and promulgate this policy as particular law for the Diocese of Marquette.

Given at the chancery in Marquette, Michigan this 7th day of September in the year 2017.


+ John F. Doerfler

Most Reverend John F. Doerfler, STD, JCL
Bishop of Marquette


Rev. Daniel J. Moll

Reverend Daniel J. Moll, Chancellor