DECREE

In my pastoral letter regarding lowering the age for the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Diocese of Evansville, I explain, "In our time when large numbers of people are distancing themselves from Jesus Christ and the Church, the need for the faithful to be enkindled by the Holy Spirit to be missionary disciples, to fulfill the Great Commission, is a great imperative. A study of our diocesan records shows that over 30% of our youth who are baptized as infants do not receive Confirmation once they have come of age. In recognition of these considerations and after assessing the needs of our diocese through an extended period of prayer, observation, extensive consultation and discernment, I have decided that the normative age children will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in our diocese will be 10 years old. In practice, this means that they will receive this sacrament in the 5th grade. The hearts and lives of these children are fertile ground to plant the seeds of apostolic witness. This reality has been an element of my discernment to adjust our diocesan norm."

Therefore, following consultation with the Priests, Pastoral Life Coordinator, Council of Priests, Diocesan Pastoral Council, Directors of Diocesan Departments, Parish Catechetical Leaders, Principals, Parents, and Youth Ministers, and in accord with canons 8 §2, 29, and 889 §§1 and 2 – 891 of the *Code of Canon Law* and the complementary legislation of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops pertinent to canon 891 which was granted *recognitio* by the Congregation for Bishops effective July 1, 2002, I hereby decree the following for the beginning of each respective academic year in the Diocese of Evansville:

- 2025-2026: Year of Preparation—continue to confirm 16-year-olds (10th grade)
- 2026-2027: Year 1—confirm 14-16 year-olds (~9th-10th grade)
- 2027-2028: Year 2—confirm 12-14 year-olds (~7th-9th grade)
- 2028-2029: Year 3—confirm 10-12 year-olds (~5th-7th grade)
- 2029 and following: Diocesan-wide conformity to confirmation age of 10 years old (~5th grade)

The provisions of this decree are effective in accord with the above-listed specifications, all things to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given at Evansville, Indiana
12 January 2025

+Joseph M. Siegel

Most Reverend Joseph M. Siegel, DD, STL
Bishop of Evansville

Dean Happe

Dean Happe
Chancellor