



Diocese of Belleville

Office of the Bishop

April 14, 2020

DECREE

Delegating Full Christian Initiation to Pastors and Administrators

The Most Reverend Edward K. Braxton
Bishop of Belleville

The COVID-19 disease, caused by the novel coronavirus pandemic, has forced us to radically alter our liturgical activities during Holy Week and the Easter season. This has made it impossible for us to celebrate the Easter sacraments of baptism, confirmation, and first eucharist during the solemn commemoration of the resurrection of the Lord at the Easter Vigil. This unfortunate change has forced us to select alternative dates. Therefore, as the Bishop of the Diocese of Belleville and the guardian of the liturgical life of the Diocese, and for the spiritual good of the Christian Faithful, I happily issue this singular Administrative Decree delegating Pastors and Administrators of the Parishes within the Diocese of Belleville to celebrate the full Christian initiation of the elect with baptism, confirmation, and the eucharist in their respective parish churches.

This Decree is effective immediately and is for a date that is appropriate and suitable for all parishes and the parties involved. If it is possible, I invite you to consider the Feast of Pentecost, May 31st; the Feast Corpus Christi, June 14th; or the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul, June 29th, 2020. Christian initiation is celebrated using the "Celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation" in the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*, nos. 206-236 and 241-243.

Given at the Chancery in Belleville, Illinois, this 14th day of April in the year of Our Lord, 2020.

The Most Reverend Edward K. Braxton, Ph.D., S.T.D.
Bishop of Belleville