

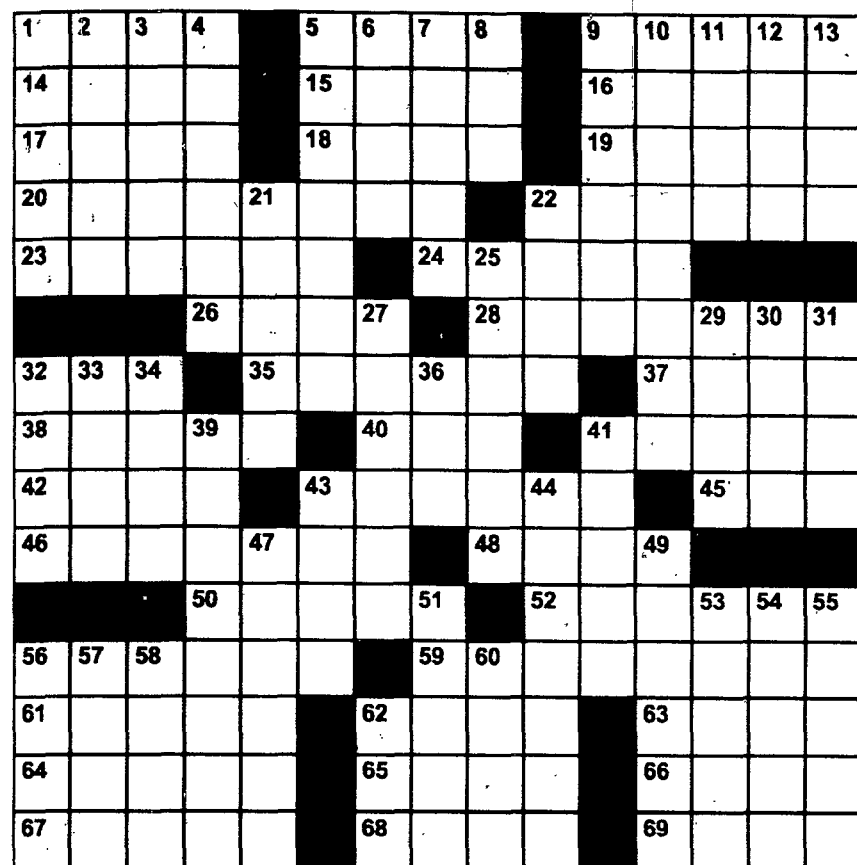
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Catholic Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Girl
5 ____ of David
9 Sacred ____ (e.g., a chapel or a sanctuary)
14 One-____
15 Calling or greeting
16 What the man did for the animals of Eden
17 Gallup
18 Trees
19 Furious
20 Made up of dioceses
22 Hindu incarnation of a god
23 Upper house
24 LP designation
26 Digit topper
28 Superlative for a book?
32 TV company
35 Apt
37 Jacob's twin
38 What my brother ain't
40 Fawn's mother
41 Biblical liturgical song
42 Collective noun suffix
43 One of the rivers of Eden
45 Airline of Norway, Denmark and Sweden (abbr.)
46 10, 11 or 12
48 Stick or ____
50 Icon
52 Faults in ancient Rome
56 Vincent's family
59 The Gospel.
61 ____ pontiff
62 Biblical nation
63 Good planners get

- these (abbr.)
64 Alter
65 Where Jacques puts his beret.
66 Tennis shoe maker
67 Abominable Snowmen
68 Biblical verb endings
69 Spanish rahs

DOWN

- 1 Certain Scandinavians
2 " ____ the Lord in holy attire." (Ps 29:2)
3 Parlor
4 Wooded
5 Play part
6 Powder
7 Pansian weapons
8 Aves. or Sts
9 Whimper
10 The Sower and The Lost Sheep
11 Amo, amas, ____
12 Fed. work program
13 River in Germany
21 Where Vatican City is located
22 In unison
25 Lazy ones
27 Cargo
29 Those, in Madrid
30 Juan's living room
31 Antacid brand
32 My Three Sons' original youngest
33 "You shall not ____ false witness ..." (Ex 20:16)

Answers on page 6 (No. 33)

Who can confirm?

Q. May a priest administer the sacrament of confirmation if a bishop is not available? Our parish was scheduled to have confirmation, families made plans for food, decorated cakes and made reservations. Some guests and sponsors from a distance were already on their way.

The bishop became ill and postponed the ceremony, causing a big strain on everyone and a lot of ill will toward the bishop for not asking the pastor or another priest to minister the sacrament.

Our pastor confirmed our daughter-in-law when she joined the church. Couldn't he have done it this time?

We were told in another parish that a priest may always confirm if the bishop cannot be present. If there, why not here? (Wisconsin)

A. You're really asking several distinct questions. First of all, as you obviously know, the bishop is the ordinary minister of confirmation. There are, however, occasions when a priest may validly administer this sacrament, but the circumstances are carefully defined.

By general church law, priests may confirm validly when someone is in danger of death; when the priest is legally equivalent to a diocesan bishop (vicar general, for instance); or immediately after a priest baptizes an adult convert or receives a previously baptized non-Catholic adult into the Catholic faith.

A priest also confirms validly when he receives back into the Catholic Church someone who left the church or who without sinful fault had been instructed in, or joined, a non-Catholic religion.

In addition, a bishop may grant to specific priests the faculty to con-



Father John Dietzen

Bridging Gaps

firm in his absence or he can ask other priests to confirm with him when the number to be confirmed is large.

Your bishop could have designated your pastor or someone else to confirm in his place had he wished.

From what I said, you can see that the priest acted lawfully and properly when he confirmed your daughter-in-law when she entered the Catholic faith. This occurs in parishes each year at the Easter Vigil liturgy.

It is also clear from the above church laws that the pastor in the other parish you speak of was not correct in saying that priests may always confirm if the bishop cannot come. Unless he has the faculty from these laws or has been personally delegated by the bishop, the confirmations ministered by a priest are invalid.

The laws I cite are found primarily in the *Code of Canon Law* (882 and 883), and two official interpretations given by the Pontifical Commission for Interpretation of the Decrees of Vatican II, in 1979 and 1975.

Father John Dietzen is a columnist for Catholic News Service. Questions may be sent to him at Box 325, Peoria, IL 61651, or e-mail jjdietzen@aol.com.

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