

Sponsor's Role, Responsibilities and Selection

The Sponsor is an important part of a Confirmation Candidate's preparation process, and so they must be able to fulfill several requirements.

- * Our Diocese requires that the Sponsor be an active practicing Catholic, who
 - is at least 16 years of age
 - received the Sacrament of Confirmation
 - is not a parent of the Candidate
 - if married, is married in the Church.

The Church recognizes a person cannot share a faith that is not part of their life.

- * It is important that a Sponsor be more mature, more informed, and more experienced in their faith journey and culture than the candidate is. The Sponsor must be willing to share their faith with the Candidate.

- * The Sponsor should be a person who already has a trusting relationship of some sort with the Candidate, such as an older friend or relative (not a parent) in whom the Candidate can confide.

- * It is recommended that the Sponsor be an older person who has some experience with his or her faith, and a clearer perspective from which to speak.

- * Prior to the celebration of Confirmation, the Sponsor must be able to meet or communicate with the Candidate on a regular basis and participate in the faith development components of the Program. Also of importance is the Sponsor's ability to make a commitment to continue the faith journey after the celebration of Confirmation.

- * The Sponsor needs to be an open, honest, caring, committed, and encouraging person who will help the Candidate grow in his or her understanding of the faith as the young person comes to a deeper appreciation of God in his or her life.

Sponsors -- What Do I Do?

1. Get to know your Candidate and his or her family.
2. Pray for the Candidate and their family through the Confirmation preparation.
3. Invite your Candidate to pray with you.
4. Tell your own story. Share some of your spiritual journey, including your preparation for Confirmation, your Confirmation Mass, and living life as a Confirmed Catholic.
5. Take the Candidate out ... to a movie, the beach, etc.
6. Discuss Service Projects your Candidate is involved in. Offer suggestions for Service ideas. Offer to participate. Attend Mass together.
7. Read Scripture together. Discuss some favorite Readings.
8. Share about your Church ministries (current and past).
9. Encourage your Candidate to keep a journal about their spiritual experiences. Keep one yourself.
10. Pray, pray, pray! Allow the creativity of the Spirit of Jesus to guide you in ways to build relationship, trust, love and faith.

Sponsor Information Form

Date _____ Candidate: _____

Sponsor's Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone (Home): _____ Phone (Cell or Work): _____

E-mail: _____

Church currently active in: _____
(include location)

Church baptized in: _____
(Name, City, State)

Church confirmed in: _____
(Name, City, State)

Confirmation date: _____

If you are not a registered member of Our Mother of Confidence Parish, a letter from the Pastor of your Parish stating your ability to be a Sponsor for the Sacrament of Confirmation is required. This letter must arrive in our Church by December 1st before Confirmation.

To be a Sponsor, I realize I must

1. be an active, practicing Catholic
2. not be one of the Candidate's parents
3. be at least 16 years of age.
4. have received the Sacrament of Confirmation
5. be receiving the Sacraments of Penance (Confession) and Eucharist (Communion) frequently.
6. be married in the Catholic Church (if married)

(Continued on back)

Sponsor Information (continued)

Relationship to the Candidate:

I declare that I am living such a life and that I will be a spiritual guide and mentor for my Candidate.

Sponsor's Signature

Date