

THE ROLE OF THE CONFIRMATION SPONSOR

A sponsor should play an important role in preparing the candidate for Confirmation, is required to participate in the Confirmation ceremony, and should serve as a guide and role model afterward in the life long journey toward Christ.

Like the godparents chosen at Baptism, sponsors “must be firm believers, able and ready to help (the Confirmed) on the road of Christian life. Their task is a truly ecclesial function....bearing some responsibility for the development and safeguarding of the grace given at Baptism.” (CCC 1255) Like parents and godparents, they share in the responsibility for the salvation of the young soul entrusted to them.

Because our life on earth is “a pilgrimage to the Father which takes place primarily in the heart” (Pope John Paul II, The Trinity’s Embrace), the sponsor should be a Catholic who loves and lives his or her faith and continues to grow in the knowledge of the Catholic faith. This is evident in a person who spends time in daily prayer and frequent encounters with Jesus in the Sacraments of Penance and Holy Eucharist. Consequently, the sponsor’s heart reflects the tender and affectionate love of the hearts of Jesus and Mary and the gifts of the Holy Spirit, providing a living example of joyful Christian life.

Specifically, sponsors must:

- Commit the time to help prepare the teen for Confirmation
- Attend Mass together when possible.
- **For the Monday group: Attend the July 23rd and the August 13th sessions**
- **For the Wednesday group: Attend the Sunday, September 9th “Holy Spirit Day Away”**
- **Attend Confirmation rehearsal and mass**
- Make himself or herself available to guide the confirmed after Confirmation.
- Encourage the confirmed to practice their faith by frequenting the sacraments, serving as a witness of holiness to society, and living up to their commitment to spread and defend the faith.
- **Pray for and with the teen**
- If possible, participate in some form of community service activity together
- Discuss topics of faith and holiness regularly
 - Aim to **meet once a month** with the teen
 - Your meetings can be at different places and may involve different activities (such as attending mass together, meeting for coffee, spending time in the adoration chapel together, or participating in service together)

Suggestions of One on One Ideas of things to do together:

- Attend a mass at a Catholic Church
- Eucharistic Adoration
- Go to a Reconciliation service
- Make dinner
- Read Scripture or a spiritual book/article
- Participate in service
- Discuss questions of faith
- Discuss the Gifts of the Holy Spirit received at Confirmation
- Spend time doing activities you both enjoy (playing a sport, going to a movie, going out for coffee, hiking, biking, baking, painting, etc.)

Possible Questions to Discuss with the Teen:

- Do you want to become confirmed? Why or why not?
- What about the Catholic faith is important to you?
- What about the Catholic faith confuses you?
- How do you like to pray?
- What do you enjoy about the Catholic mass? What confuses you about the Catholic mass?
- How are you strong in your faith? How would you like to grow in your faith?
- Which gift of the Spirit do you recognize as being strong in you? Which gift of the Spirit do you need to grow in?
- Which fruit of the Spirit do you recognize as being strong in you? Which fruit of the Spirit do you need to grow in?
- How are you a witness of your faith in your family? Your school? Among your friends? At church?
- How do you see yourself as a member of the Body of Christ?
- Who is a saint you admire?
- Do you read scripture? Why or why not? What stories from scripture do you find compelling?
- Do you have a favorite bible verse?
- What name are you going to choose for your Confirmation? Why?