



NOTES ON CHOOSING A SPONSOR

CONFIRMATION SPONSOR:

A Confirmation sponsor supports the candidate as they prepare to become full members of the church. It's an important role to play, and one no sponsor should take lightly. Choosing a sponsor is also a decision the candidates should take seriously. A Confirmation sponsor is a special person who can show you, in a realistic and practical way the place of the Gospel in his/her life and society; who can help you with your doubts and anxieties; who can speak with you about their own faith life and beliefs, and who can watch over the progress of your baptismal life. The purpose of the relationship between you and your sponsor is to lead you into a deeper relationship with Jesus. The faith sharing that will occur between you and your sponsor helps build your relationship and enables you to accept the Holy Spirit more fully. As you share experiences of the past, explore the meaning of the present, and set goals for the future, you will affirm each other on your faith journeys.

QUALIFICATIONS OF A SPONSOR:

A confirmation sponsor must be a confirmed member of the Catholic Church. The sponsor must also be a practicing Catholic who attends mass. A sponsor does not have to be the same sex as you are. A brother or sister can be a sponsor if they meet all of the qualifications. A parent cannot be a sponsor but may act as a proxy in the event that a sponsor lives long distance. The sponsor should be a significant person in your life, who reflects Christian values in the world, living their faith with Mass attendance and serving others. The sponsor must be willing to meet personally with you at least once a month to discuss your prayer life and to share faith and prayer. (If distance is a problem, this can be done by telephone or email).

SPONSOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Attend the Confirmation Preparation Meetings once a month and meet with candidate.
2. To commit yourself to pray for the candidate.
3. Meet privately with candidate at least once a month, in person, by phone, or by email, to share with him/her how the Lord has been leading him/her and you since your last meeting. A formal structured meeting is not necessary, but if one is desired, the following guidelines can serve as the structure for your monthly meetings:
 - a. Share an opening prayer (either spontaneous or formal)
 - b. Discuss any of the following questions:
 - Are you praying? How often?
 - Have you experienced Christ in your life since your last meeting?
 - Have you witnessed Christ's presence in someone else's life recently? Explain.
 - What Scripture have you heard or read that had special meaning for you?
 - Have you felt the presence of Christ in your home, school, neighborhood, job and social life?
 - Do you have any questions about something you've read in the Scriptures, or something you've experienced since our last meeting?
 - Is there any specific problem or situation that I can help you pray about?
 - c. Pray together to close the session. (You may want to mention needs either of you have and pray for them.)
4. Be willing to contact the Youth Minister or one of priests if you have any questions.
5. Join with your candidate and their family in celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation on a date to be announced. Continue after Confirmation to pray for your candidate and to support him/her.

