

## *Please Give This Document To Your Sponsor!*

### The Role of the Confirmation Sponsor

This article is extracted from an essay by Wegher, Fr. William F.,  
*Godparents and Sponsors: What Is Expected of Them Today?*

If you have been chosen to be a Confirmation sponsor, congratulations! This person sees in you a profound faith commitment, finds trust and knows you are someone who will care about them and their faith. Sounds impressive, doesn't it? It's not all that complicated, but it does take time, a caring heart and a listening ear. If you're a practicing, mature Catholic, don't get too worried. Here are a few suggestions on how to be the best possible sponsor for your candidate:

- Be a living model of faith. At least a part of what this young person admires in you is your faith! If the way you practice your faith is not what it should be, "get it together," so to speak! If you honestly can't, this is understandable, but maybe you should decline the invitation to be a sponsor. *Your life doesn't have to become artificially saintly, but your faith should be authentic and sincere.*
- Pray for your candidate and yourself. As candidates decide to be confirmed, they need spiritual strength. *Your prayers for them are important*, but don't forget to pray for yourself also, that you can share why you value and practice your Catholicism. Attend Mass together, or even have the courage to come to Reconciliation together.
- Give of your time and share your gifts. You'll be asked to spend time together on various activities. Initiate conversations using the attached questions. Let your unique God-given talents and gifts shine! Offer a gift of spiritual significance—a new Bible, rosary or book about our faith or about the Saint the candidate has chosen for a Confirmation name—but be *creative and relevant!*
- Don't miss the ceremony. Participating in the ceremony is the easiest part of being a sponsor. Your basic job will be to place your hand on your candidate's shoulder [as they are anointed] ... You're there to be a support, but your role as a sponsor continues throughout the natural life of your Confirmand (candidate for Confirmation).
- Don't forget this newly confirmed Catholic. After Confirmation day, remember birthdays and this anniversary. Send a card or make a phone call. Continue to worship together, or from time to time do some Christian service. Put those "Gifts of the Spirit" into practice.

Sponsors are responsible for providing a Sponsor Certificate to their candidate by the summer prior to the beginning of the candidate's 8<sup>th</sup> grade year. It can be obtained from your parish office. The form certifies that the sponsor is a member of his/her parish, is a practicing Catholic and is qualified to act as a sponsor. The Sponsor Certificate **MUST** contain the raised parish seal.

St. Ambrose parishioners should complete and return the enclosed certificate form. If you are **NOT** a member of St. Ambrose Catholic Church, then contact your home parish to request the certificate.