



Confirmation Sponsor Certificate

Due to CFM Office by Friday, December 14, 2018

Please

- Fill out the top portion of the certificate.
- Carefully read the affirmations.
- Have your parish priest witness your signature and add his parish seal.
- Return this form to St. Joseph CFM at the address below by December 15, 2016.

Name of Sponsor _____

Address _____

Person to be Confirmed _____ Date _____

*I am a registered and participating member of _____ Catholic Church
In (city) _____ (state) _____*

I affirm that:

I have received the three Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.

I regularly participate in the Sunday Mass and give witness to my faith in Jesus Christ by receiving the Eucharist.

I actively strive to live out my commitment to Christ and to the parish life of the Church by my interest, support and loving response to those I meet in daily life.

I will give support to the person I am sponsoring by my prayers and by the example of my Catholic faith as practiced in my daily life.

Sponsor (signature) _____

Parish Priest (signature) _____

Parish _____ **Parish Seal:**



Why is it so important for Confirmation sponsors to be registered in a parish?

Parish membership is one of the major indications that we take our faith life seriously. The parish offers stability for our regular celebration of the Eucharist. We need the community of believers to support and nourish our faith life.

The Catechism quotes St. John Chrysostom: “You cannot pray at home as at church, where there is a great multitude, where exclamations are cried out to God as from one great heart, and where this is something more: the union of minds, the accord of souls, the bond of charity, the prayers of the priests.” (The Catholic Catechism #2179)

If we say we don’t need a faith community to be Catholic, we deny the foundation on which the Church was built. Jesus began his Church by forming a community of men and women to whom he handed over the faith. He built his Church on this community of apostles and disciples.

The early Church understood the importance of community life, and the Faith spread because the Apostles and St. Paul formed communities (churches) in various cities. The early Church knew that community was essential. How can we today sustain our Catholicism apart from the parish community? What then gives us nourishment? How then do we continue to learn about our faith? Where is our stability? The Church does not exist apart from parish life. It is parish life.

When someone joins the Kiwanis, they are expected to attend monthly meetings. If they are out of town, they attend a local meeting, but when they are in town, they are supposed to attend with the group they have joined. If a mere club finds this action so important, how can we place so much less importance on attendance at Eucharist with our own parish community?

Church Law tells us that to be a sponsor, it is necessary, in part, to be 16 years old, be Catholic, fully initiated (having celebrated baptism, confirmation, Eucharist) and living a life of faith which gives witness to this initiation. (#874) If we are not parishioners, we are disconnected from the regular faith life of the church.

If we are disconnected from the Church’s faith life, then to what do we witness? How can we sponsor someone into something in which we do not believe or participate? How then can we give proper example to the confirmand we are supposed to be sponsoring?

And if I don’t belong to a parish now?

You may:

- Take this opportunity to register at the parish where you attend. If the priest is familiar with your attendance and participation, he may be willing to sign and seal the Sponsor Certificate.
- If you have very recently changed locations, you may wish to contact your former parish and have that priest sign your certificate. At the same time, you’ll want to establish a membership at your new location.