

CONFIRMATION SPONSOR

HOW TO CHOOSE A SPONSOR

The role of the sponsor should not be confused with legal guardian. The relationship is spiritual, not legal. Parents and candidates are invited to make their choice of sponsor with the following in mind.

Inviting someone to be a sponsor implies:

- A request by the Confirmand and the parents for the assistance of the Christian community, in general, and the individual sponsor, in particular, in raising the child in the Catholic faith.
- An admission by the parents of their awareness they need this assistance.
- An affirmation of the faith of the individual invited to be sponsor and a challenge to them to witness their faith.
- A statement by the Confirmand and parents they want the child to be positively influenced by the faith and life of the person they have invited.
- A sponsor "must be firm believers, able and ready to help the newly confirmed- child or adult - on the road of Christian life. Their task is a truly ecclesial [church] function" (CCC 1255).
- In reflection upon the responsibilities of a sponsor, it is apparent that what is asked of the sponsor is really the mission each of us, as Christians, accepted as a part of our own Baptism. All the baptized are to nurture faith and reach out to others in faith throughout our lives.
- The sponsor is to be a model, guide and witness as he or she grows in faith. It is good when a sponsor lives close to the family and is able to visit throughout the year. Before inviting someone, a relative or friend, to be a sponsor you are encouraged to spend time in prayer seeking guidance and wisdom.
- The Church recommends one of the godparents present at Baptism serve as sponsor at Confirmation (CCC 1311). The Church invites sponsors to be an active presence in the life of the godchild.
- Weekly participation in the Sunday Eucharist is foundational; it is the central to the Catholic Christian life. As a sponsor you will model what it means to live as a Catholic Christian.

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REQUIREMENTS FOR SPONSORS

- A sponsor should be a Confirmed, Catholic Christian who is at least 16 years of age, and who faithfully practices and believes in the Catholic faith as a participating member of a parish community.

Some of the responsibilities of a sponsor to the candidate **before** confirmation:

- Be a convinced, enthusiastic Catholic who lives a life of faith, and is committed to fulfilling the responsibilities of a sponsor.
- Pray regularly for and with the candidate, showing him/her how to pray by example.
- Cultivate a supportive and encouraging relationship with the confirmand.
- Be involved in the catechetical preparation of the candidate with great heart and dedication.
- Have knowledge of the personal faith of the candidate and share your own faith experience.
- Lead and guide the candidate to a personal relationship with the Lord and to a deeper familiarity "with the Holy Spirit—his actions, his gifts, and his biddings—in order to be more capable of assuming the apostolic responsibilities of Christian life" (CCC 1309).

Some of the responsibilities of a sponsor to the confirmed **after** confirmation:

- Maintain regular contact with the confirmed by phone, email. Also, sending a card on the anniversary of his/her confirmation.
- Pray regularly for the confirmed and when possible pray with him/her.
- Help the confirmed to learn how to experience a deeper prayer life (e.g. eucharistic adoration).
- Encourage participation in the life of the Church, especially through his/her parish.
- Continue ongoing catechesis (e.g., sharing good books) and be available for questions.
- Help the confirmed to understand how to bear witness to Christ in the world and to fulfill his/her baptismal promises faithfully through the Holy Spirit.