

# Responses to Meetings with Sponsor – Page 1

*(Please return one copy of this completed 2-sided sheet by April 23, 2023.*

*The other attached sheets are used for leading each meeting.)*

**CANDIDATE'S NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SPONSOR'S NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

First Meeting Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1) What are you learning about yourself as a result of your Confirmation preparation?

2) What is the main obstacle in your spiritual growth?

Second Meeting Date: \_\_\_\_\_

List your top seven values in life:

1)

2)

3)

4)

5)

6)

7)

## Responses to Meetings with Sponsor – Page 2

Third Meeting Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**FREQUENCY:**

I pray, \_\_\_\_\_ per day.

\_\_\_\_\_ per week.

\_\_\_\_\_ per month.

**FORM:**

My favorite form of prayer is:

**DIFFICULTY:**

My major difficulty in praying is:

**PLACE:**

The place I like to pray is:

**COMMUNITY:** I attend Mass how often? \_\_\_\_\_

What I find most helpful at Mass is: \_\_\_\_\_

What I find most difficult at Mass is: \_\_\_\_\_

Fourth Meeting Date: \_\_\_\_\_

- Is Confirmation more an end to childhood religious training or an entrance into fuller participation in the Catholic Christian Community (the Church)? Why?
  
- In what ways do you feel ready to try to follow Jesus' Way? In what ways do you feel you need more guidance?

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO Fr. Adam Maus by April 23, 2023, during the Student/Sponsor Confirmation Class scheduled for that day, or by mailing it to:  
Fr. Adam Maus, Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church, 707 16<sup>th</sup> Ave SW, Minot ND 58701

## **FIRST SPONSOR MEETING**

*Note for Sponsor: Meetings with your candidate should last about 30-45 minutes depending on your relationship with them. It is suggested that the sessions be established at a particular time for four consecutive weeks. Doing so keeps them special and protects them in a world where we all live such busy lives. Pray with your candidate briefly at the beginning/end of each of your meetings and let your candidate know that you will be praying for him or her during the week.*

### **SCRIPTURE**

Read together Matthew 19:16-24:

*Once a man came to Jesus, "Teacher," he asked, "What good thing must I do to receive eternal life?"*

*"Why do you ask me concerning what is good?" answered Jesus. "There is only One who is good. Keep the commandments if you want to enter life."*

*"What commandments?" he asked. Jesus answered, "Do not murder; do not commit adultery; do not steal; do not lie; honor your father and mother; and love your fellowman as yourself."*

*"I have obeyed all these commandments," the young man replied. "What else do I need?"*

*Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go and sell all you have and give the money to the poor, and you will have riches in heaven; then come and follow me. When the young man heard this, he went away sad because he was very rich.*

*Jesus then said to his disciples, "It will be very hard, I tell you, for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. I tell you something else; it is much harder for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God than for a camel to go through the eye of a needle."*

### **COMMENTARY**

At first glance, it may appear that Jesus is saying it is wrong to be rich. Upon further study of the New Testament, however, we discover Jesus does not have anything against the rich; in fact, He even seems to frequent their company. Jesus was concerned not because the man was rich, but because his wealth was his number one concern. It kept him from putting Jesus first in his life.

Having a lot of money can sometimes be a problem if a person wants to be a good Christian. Why? Because having money can lead to a life of comfort and selfishness. And that lifestyle makes it easy to forget the plight of the less fortunate in society. In itself, having money is not necessarily an obstacle to living a Christian life, but it can be an obstacle for some people. When it is such an obstacle, Jesus is saying here that it is better to get rid of one's money altogether. The same point applies across the board. For example, the drinking of alcohol is not itself an obstacle to a good family life. If a husband or wife becomes preoccupied with drinking, then it is an obstacle.

### **DISCUSSION**

Ask your candidate what he or she has learned about himself or herself as a result of the Confirmation process thus far. What does he or she consider to be the main obstacle in his or her spiritual growth? (Feel free to share your main obstacle and record your candidate's answers on the meeting form.)

## **SECOND SPONSOR MEETING**

**TOPIC:** Values

### **SCRIPTURE**

***The Parable of the Hidden Treasure:*** “*The Kingdom of heaven is like this. A man happens to find a treasure hidden in a field. He covers it up again, and is so happy that he goes and sells everything he has, and then goes back and buys that field.*”

***The Parable of the Pearl:*** “*Also, the Kingdom of heaven is like this. A man is looking for fine pearls, and when he finds one that is unusually fine, he goes and sells everything he has, and buys that pearl.*”

### **COMMENTARY**

These two short parables illustrate that values we have need to be cherished, sacrificed for, protected, and put in a place of priority above everything else. Values are a person’s beliefs and behaviors chosen freely after serious thought. We cherish them, are willing to publicly affirm them, and act on them. Hopefully, for Christians their values reflect those of the Gospel.

### **DISCUSSION**

Ask your candidate to write down the top seven values in their life (e.g. family, friends, parties, fun, money, faith, success, sports, clothes, etc.). Tell them to be as honest as possible. There are no wrong answers. You are not there to judge him or her, but to help clarify what his or her true priorities in life really are. You can do the same exercise and share them with your candidate.

## **THIRD SPONSOR MEETING**

**TOPIC:** Prayer Life

**SCRIPTURE:** Matthew 6:5-8

*“When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites! They love to stand up and pray in the houses of worship and on the street corners, so that everyone will see them. I assure you, they have already been paid in full. But when you pray, go to your room, close the door, and pray to your Father, who is unseen. And your Father, who sees what you do in private, will reward you. When you pray, do not use a lot of meaningless words, as the pagans do, who think that God will hear them because their prayers are long. Do not be like them. Your Father already knows what you need before you ask him.”*

### **COMMENTARY**

The purpose of this interview is to support your candidate in the practice of private prayer. It is also to be assured that he or she is faithful to Sunday Mass. At this stage in his or her Confirmation process he or she really should be attending Mass weekly. If he or she is not, it calls into question his or her decision to be confirmed more fully into the Christian community. If you have any difficulty in this matter you could discuss it with the Faith Formation Coordinator or the parish priest.

### **DISCUSSION**

Ask your candidate to fill out the short questionnaire in the Third Sponsor Meeting section of the “Responses to Meetings with Sponsor” form which you will return. After completion, discuss his or her responses as well as your own to the same questions.

## **FOURTH SPONSOR MEETING**

**TOPIC:** Commitment

**SCRIPTURE:** Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

*The same day, Jesus left the house and went to the lakeside where he sat down to teach. The crowd grew so large that he got into a boat and sat in it, while the crowd stood on the shore. He used parables to tell them many things.*

*“There was a man who went out to sow. As he scattered the seed in the field, some of it fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky ground, where there was little soil. The seeds soon sprouted, because the soil wasn’t deep. When the sun came up it burned the young plants, and because the roots had not grown deep enough, the plants soon dried up. Some of the seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. But some of the seed fell in good soil and bore grain: some had one hundred grains, others sixty, and others thirty.”*

*And Jesus concluded, “Listen, then, if you have ears! Listen then and learn what the parable of the sower means. Those who hear the message about the Kingdom, but do not understand it are like the seed that fell along the path. The Evil One comes and snatches away what was sown in them. The seed that fell on rocky ground stands for those who receive the message gladly as soon as they hear it. But it does not sink deep in them, and they don’t last long. So when trouble or persecution comes because of the message, they give up at once. The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear the message, but the worries about this life and the love of riches choke the message, and they don’t bear fruit. And the seed sown in the good soil stands for those who hear the message and understand it; they bear fruit,*

*some as much as one hundred, others sixty, and others thirty.*

### **COMMENTARY**

Commitment is the name of another challenge people face. Many people want to avoid being pinned down about anything. They want to be casual about everything in life. How many people do you know who, having made a promise to do something or go somewhere, will break the original promise? It is as if they had written in an exception clause: “I’ll do this if something better doesn’t come along.” In some circles this is the accepted way of acting.

After the investment of so much energy, time, study, and reflection during their Confirmation process, it is hoped that your candidate is ready and serious about being a follower of Jesus Christ. If he or she is not, perhaps he or she should delay receiving Confirmation another year to allow for growth in spiritual maturity. If your candidate speaks honestly to you about his or her desire to postpone Confirmation, be supportive if you feel it is genuine. No one is ever really ready, so it is common to feel some hesitation, but in other cases the candidate may want more time to prepare and grow.

### **DISCUSSION**

Ask your candidate what kind of “soil” he or she sees himself or herself as. (Also share how you see yourself.) Ask him or her if he or she sees Confirmation more as a graduation from religious education or as an entrance into fuller participation in the Church. Does he or she really feel ready to try to follow Jesus’ way more closely?