

SPONSOR INTERVIEW ARTICLE

Due in the Formation Office no later than March 9, 2020



You and your sponsor are each being given this set of interview questions to help you talk about faith together. The interview may take place over a period of time or all on the same day. After you have completed the interview, write a **300-word article** about your sponsor, including some of the interesting things you discovered about him or her during the interview.

- **Do not have the sponsor write answers to the questions and hand that in.** This is not the sponsor's homework.
- **Do not simply list answers to each question in a 1, 2, 3... format.** This is not about answering the questions but about sharing faith in discussion.
- **You don't need to include answers to every question.**

The questions are there to get the discussion going. **This is an essay or news article** in which you include some of the important and/or interesting things you learned about your sponsor during the interview. Include what you admire about his or her faith or what you discovered about his or her faith that you didn't already know. You can ask your own questions too.

Due by March 9, 2020

Sponsor Interview:

To the Sponsor: *These interview questions are given to the sponsor as well as the candidate, even though it's the candidate's responsibility to "interview" the sponsor. The reason is two-fold:*

- 1) *Many sponsors like to reflect upon and pray over some of the questions before answering them.*
- 2) *Some candidates feel awkward asking faith questions, but if you, as a sponsor, ask when the candidate would like to schedule the interview and tell the candidate that you've already been looking over the questions and are prepared to answer them, the ice is broken quickly.*

To the Candidate: *During the next few months, set up a time to meet with your sponsor to "interview" him or her. It would be best to meet with your sponsor in person, but if this is not possible because your sponsor lives out of town, you can interview your sponsor by phone or by email (last resort). You could meet at your house or your sponsor's house; you could meet for breakfast, lunch, or dinner; you could go for a walk together. BE CREATIVE!*

1. How did you become Catholic? Were you baptized when you were a baby or did you become Catholic as an adult through the RCIA process? Tell me about how you first learned about your faith, whether you were a child or an adult?
2. As a Catholic, what makes you different from other Christians?
3. How do you picture the Holy Spirit? What images come to mind? When or how have you experienced the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life?
4. What saint did you choose for your Confirmation patron, and why?
5. Do you have a favorite saint (or favorite saints)? Why is this saint your favorite? What is there about his or her life that has helped you on your faith journey?

6. How do you define the word “holy”? Do you know people in your life that you would describe as “holy”? Do you think anyone describes you a “holy”? How does that make you feel? What challenges do you face when you are trying to live a life of holiness?
7. Tell me about an experience in your life when it was difficult for you to be Catholic, perhaps a time when you were ridiculed because of your faith, or a time when you struggled to believe in the teachings of your Catholic faith. What did you do to “keep your faith” or find the answers to your questions during these times.
8. In what ways do you feel that celebrating the Eucharist (the Mass) every week (or maybe every day) strengthens and nourishes you to live as a Catholic? Did you ever have a time when you did not like going to Mass? Do you like going to Mass now? What do you think caused the change?
9. What is your understanding of what it means “to sin”? What does “forgiveness” mean to you? What do you do when you find it very difficult to forgive someone who has hurt you? What do you do when you need to ask forgiveness from someone you have hurt?
10. Reconciliation between a sinner and God is so important that the Church celebrates it as a sacrament. How has your understanding of this sacrament grown over the years?
11. Do you have a favorite place to pray or a favorite time to pray? Do you ever find it difficult to pray? When you pray, to whom do you usually address your prayer: God, Jesus, The Holy Spirit, Mary, a particular saint?
12. Do you regularly participate in service projects or volunteer opportunities at your parish, work, or community?
13. How would you answer someone who told you that “Catholics worship Mary”? To whom do you turn, or what resources do you use when you find that you do not know an answer to a question about your faith?

14. Have you ever had a time in your life when you really felt close to God? Tell me about it.
15. Have you ever had a time in your life when you really struggled to believe in God? Tell me about it and how you kept your faith through that dark time.
16. Who has been a good role model for you to help you live according to your Catholic faith? What has he or she taught or shown you? How has he or she deepened your faith?
17. In what ways do you think you still need to grow in your Catholic faith?
18. What is your favorite Scripture passage, verse, or story? Tell me why.
19. Through the Sacrament of Confirmation, the gifts we first received at our Baptism are strengthened and increased within each of us.
 - Wisdom
 - Understanding
 - Right Judgment (Counsel)
 - Courage (Fortitude)
 - Knowledge
 - Reverence (Piety)
 - Wonder and Awe (Fear of the Lord)

These seven special gifts are given by God to help us lead a good and holy life. They are special graces that we receive through the Holy Spirit to enable us to respond to God's call to holiness. Reflecting back on your life experiences and decisions, which gifts have you used a lot? Which gift do you need to use more?

20. What do you think is one of the greatest challenges of being Catholic? What is the best thing about being Catholic?