



Dear Sponsors,

**Congratulations and thank you!** You have been chosen and have agreed to sponsor a youth on his/her journey of preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

The journey toward the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation is a wonderful experience. As a sponsor, you are to guide, mentor, and share the story of your faith in Christ with your Candidate.

### **Canonical Requirements to be a Sponsor**

A Sponsor:

- Must be a practicing (registered), confirmed Catholic
- Must be at least 16 years of age.
- May not be the candidate's mother or father
- May be the baptismal godparents of the candidate
- Must be a person who leads, "a life of faith in keeping with the function to be taken on."

### **Role of the Sponsor**

The sponsor represents the support and prayer of the entire Church. He/she will be the candidate's spiritual mentor and guide.

During this process, the following is asked of the sponsor.

1. Help answer candidate's questions about the Catholic faith. If you don't know the answer, say, "I don't know, I will research that and get back to you."
2. Help the candidate to know, love and serve Christ and his Church (the faith community) more deeply. Perhaps invite the candidate to join you in a service project.
3. Present the Candidate to the Church (the people of God), at the Confirmation Liturgy, announcing his/her readiness & willingness to celebrate, and live as a fully participating, active disciple of Jesus, through involvement in the Church while embracing a life-long journey of faith formation.
4. Sponsors need to attend the Confirmation rehearsal.
5. Attend the Liturgy of Confirmation.
6. Meet with the candidate regularly throughout the final year of preparation and discuss the topics addressed in the preparation sessions.
7. Be open (vulnerable) & honest about your own spiritual faith journey with the candidate. Share the struggles and joys of your own faith and how God in Christ Jesus has been made real to you.
8. Share about how you have developed and practice an active prayer life. If your prayer life has stalled or you haven't developed one, use this opportunity to begin.
9. Be willing to point out instances of injustice, and situations that pull us away from God. The Church calls that which comes between us and God, sin.
10. Share examples of how reconciliation has drawn you closer to God and to others. Consider inviting your candidate to join you in celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

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11. Spend time getting to know your candidate on a more personal level, consider taking your candidate out to lunch, dinner or coffee to share in conversation.
12. Pray for and with your candidate regularly.
13. Continue to be available to the candidate and lend spiritual support after the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation.
14. A person in close geographic proximity to the candidate (Ideally, but not required.)

The main question I receive is, how often do I need to meet with my candidate and for how long? The answer? It doesn't matter how often or how long you meet with your candidate, what is important is sharing conversation and experiencing together the FAITH TO FAITH resource and having meaningful discussion. Remember, Confirmation is not graduation, but a celebration that marks what God has done and will continue to do in the life of the young disciple. Confirmation is the final sacrament of initiation into the Church.

Our hope is that sponsors accompany youth in a way that expresses the importance and sacredness of the process. Being "Confirmed" into the Catholic Church is accepting responsibility to be a fully active participating member of the faith community and it isn't to be taken lightly. After all, this young person is the current and future Church and will ensure that the faith of the Church continues for generations to come. He or She will strengthen, renew and share the faith of the Church with the people they encounter today and into the future.

Please contact me with any questions you may have about your candidate's progress or if you have any questions about the process.

Thank you for your willingness to serve Christ and his Church in this special ministry of living your faith. I will be holding you both in my prayers.

In Christ,

*Tom*

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