

TIPS FOR SPONSORS

- Give the gift of time and attention
- Listen more – talk less
- Judge not, lest ye be judged!
- Be a friend, but not “the buddy,” even if you are close in age – Remember you’re a Sponsor! This may be difficult if you are a sibling or close relation, but remember as a confirmed Catholic yourself, you represent the entire Catholic Church to your Candidate.
- Try your best to understand your Candidate’s point of view. This may be difficult if you and your Candidate are farther apart in age. Remember sacred scripture reveals to us often that the Holy Spirit often “speaks” to the Church through youth.
- Pray for your Candidate – regularly!
- Show that you value the invitation to be a sponsor. Stay in contact with your Candidate. Send him/her a weekly email, give a call, send a text, write a note card, invite them out to a meal or to have coffee, etc.
- Realize you’ll always be their sponsor – your part doesn’t end when the rite has been celebrated!
- Use this time to continue your own growth in knowledge, love and service of God!
- Above all else – Be A Role Model – **Actions Speak Louder than Words!**
 - Attend Mass Regularly
 - Join a prayer group, faith sharing group, Bible study, etc.
 - Be a Catechist, Co-Catechist or Support Youth Faith Formation, or Youth Ministry in some way.
- Be Involved with your Confirmation youth!
- Don’t be afraid to challenge Candidate (gently) and tell them that you’ll challenge them, but be open to being challenged too. Authentic mentors are never imposing, but always proposing!
- Genuinely be interested in your Candidate’s life (don’t be nosy) and share your life appropriately.
- Prepare for your sessions – if you don’t, neither will the Candidate!
- Treat your time together as sacred!
- Reassure your Candidate that their sharing is held in confidence (unless their sharing is harmful to themselves or others).
- Be above reproach! The invitation to be a Sponsor is sacred, intimate (philio) and vital to the life and future of the Church!

- Best practice – when meeting in person, practice safe environment principles by meeting in view of and with the knowledge of others. You need not have family or others right next to you listening in, but have them close by. This protects you as well as protects the youth you are accompanying.
- Bathe everything in prayer, being open to God’s Grace and the power of the Holy Spirit!

GETTING STARTED WITH YOUR CANDIDATE

- Contact Candidate
- Decide how/when you’ll meet to cover materials
- Thank the Candidate for choosing you as a Sponsor – it is a high honor!
- Share with the Candidate what will need to be accomplished over your time together. I suggest having at least three (or more) sessions together. After looking over the **Faith to Faith** resource, you’ll need to decide if you want to meet with your Candidate 6 times or less.
- Ask your Candidate if they have any “burning questions” about faith they hope to have answered in your time together.
- **Don’t make up answers and don’t give false promises. IT IS OK TO SAY, “I DON’T KNOW, LET ME RESEARCH IT AND GET BACK TO YOU.**
- Ask them if they have any thoughts on how best you can help them in their journey of faith.

YOUR FINAL CONVERSATION

- The Final Conversation about Recommend or Postpone is important.
- Recall what Confirmation IS & is NOT
- The Catholic faith is **personal**, BUT **never private**, because it is **ALWAYS lived out actively in community.**

IMPORTANT DATES

- August 15TH – All items due to parish office
- Faith to Faith Magazine can be given to Candidate when finished
- September 18, 2022 – Confirmation youth Retreat Day (Youth Only) at OLIH
- October 8, 2022 – Sponsors & Candidates – Practice – Time?
- October 8, 2022 – Mass with Confirmation Liturgy – after rehearsal & meeting with Bishop