

Choosing a Sponsor – Some Important Guidelines

Each candidate, with the help of his or her parents, is responsible for choosing a sponsor. It is recommended that, if possible, the Baptismal sponsor also be the Confirmation sponsor. This choice would express more clearly the relationship between Baptism and Confirmation and would make the function of the sponsor more effective. There is no regulation determining that the sponsor must be the same sex as the candidate.

Sponsors take on a lifelong commitment to help their candidates fulfill the obligation of this sacrament. During the time of preparation, the sponsors are expected to take an active role in the Confirmation process and meet with their candidates on a regular basis. Sponsors must be present at the Confirmation practice and ceremony. Their role demands time, commitment, and willingness to engage in faith-sharing activities with their candidates. Persons who are too young, who live too far away, or who are too busy to devote proper time and care to the candidate would not be able to fulfill this role.

Church law states that the sponsor must be:

- ❖ at least sixteen years of age
- ❖ a Catholic who has received Holy Eucharist and Confirmation
- ❖ actively participating in and attending weekly Mass
- ❖ living according to the Catholic faith (if married, in a sacramental marriage)

The sponsor may not be the mother or father of the one to be confirmed.

Parents, candidates, and prospective sponsors should pray and consider carefully the qualifications and requirements before a commitment to the confirmation process is made. The prayers below may help.

Prayer of the Candidate

O Holy Spirit, You have been with me and have counseled me ever since my Baptism. I thank You for this. Now that I am about to be confirmed in my faith I ask Your aid. Please inspire me and my parents to choose a sponsor who will prepare me well for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Be with us as we weigh the different choices. Help us make an intelligent choice, not just an emotional one. I desire to become a strong, faith-filled Christian. Lead us to the person who will be the best guide for me.

Prayer of the Parents

O Holy Spirit, You have entrusted (name) to us. Our role as parents is to protect and nurture (name) in every way. Give us grace to know who would be the best partner in carrying out our responsibility to protect and nourish his/her faith life.

1. List names of possible sponsors.
2. Write the pros and cons of each choice in terms of
 - a. Does he/she live close enough to meet with me?
 - b. Does he/she live a Catholic Christian way of life of worship and service?
 - c. Is he/she mature enough to guide me and challenge me to be serious about Confirmation and my Catholic faith?
 - d. Can I relate well with him/her so we can pray and talk together?
3. Discuss the options.
4. Choose a sponsor.

| POSSIBLE SPONSORS | PROS | CONS |
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