

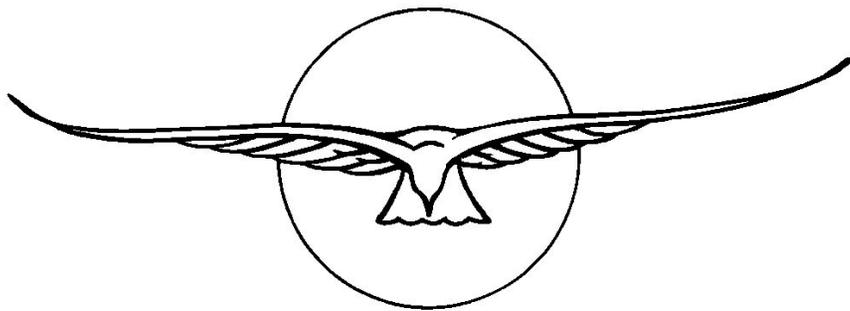
CALLED TO BE A SPONSOR

You have been chosen to participate in one of the most joyful of the Church's activities---welcoming new members.

Confirmation, along with the Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Eucharist, initiates a person into the Roman Catholic Church.

As we welcome our confirmand into the grace of the Sacrament of Confirmation, we hope your role as his/her sponsor will allow you to become more aware of your own relationship with God and to grow even more deeply in God's love.

Your ministry as sponsor will be humbling because you will sense how God will work through you in forming the minds and hearts of those who hunger for God.



WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A SPONSOR

As a sponsor for one who is being confirmed, you are called to serve as companion, guide, model and witness.

As ***companion***, you will walk the journey with your candidate to full initiation in the Church. You will be available to him/her, offering support, comfort and understanding in times of doubt, confusion and conflict. Occasionally, you may have to offer a challenge if you sense your candidate is not making his/her best effort.

As ***guide***, you will point the way to the Lord as the destination of our lifelong spiritual journey. You should have a clear understanding of our faith in order to explain the various facets of Catholic life that ultimately lead us to union with God.

As ***model***, a model of faith, your example will teach your candidate a great deal about living out the Catholic faith. The challenge is clear -- to put into practice all that you believe as you continue to deepen your faith and become an inspiration for your candidate. This does not mean you are expected to be perfect. We are all called to recognize our imperfections and try to overcome them.

As ***witness***, your acceptance of the role of sponsor attests to your own readiness to deepen your relationship with God. It also attests that you feel your candidate is ready to be confirmed and begin a more active role in responding to Jesus' call, "Follow me."

The Confirmation sponsor should recognize that he/she is an instrument, chosen by God, to bring the confirmand into a closer relationship with God and the Church.

The sponsor should be a person of prayer, open to the grace of God and responsive to the call of discipleship. The newly confirmed will be able to grow into a person of prayer mainly if he/she has a good example to follow - hopefully the sponsor and the parents.

As a sponsor, you will experience a great sense of joy on Confirmation Day. Confirmation completes the process of initiation into the Church, but it does not and should not mean the end. Growing closer to God, learning more about God and our faith is a lifelong process. Filled with the grace of the Holy Spirit and with the support of their sponsors, we pray that the newly confirmed will be strengthened as they continue their spiritual journey, always resting in the love of God.

REQUIREMENTS FOR CONFIRMATION SPONSORS

Canon 893 of the *Code of Canon Law* states that one who would undertake the office of sponsor for Confirmation must fulfill the same conditions as a sponsor for Baptism [Canon 874].

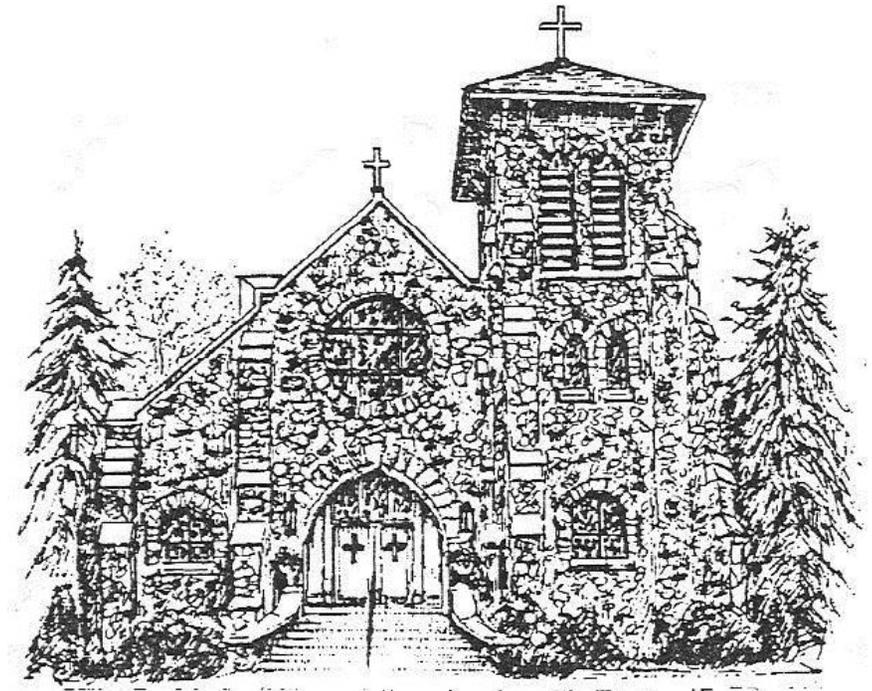
Canon 874 states that to undertake the office of sponsor one must:

1. be designated by the candidate for Confirmation, or by the parents or guardian, or failing these, by the pastor or the minister of the sacrament; and that the person have both the ability and intention of carrying out his or her role.
2. have completed 16 years of age, unless another age has been decreed by the diocesan bishop, or unless the pastor or minister of the sacrament considers there is a just reason for an exception to be made.
3. be a Catholic, already confirmed himself or herself and who has already received the Eucharist; further, the sponsor should be one who is living a life of faith which befits the role being undertaken (For example, attending Mass regularly, if married, is validly married in the Church, etc.)
4. be free from canonical penalty whether imposed or declared.
5. not be the father or the mother of the person to be confirmed.

Canon 893 also states that it is desirable and fitting that the one who undertook the role of Baptismal godparent assume the role of Confirmation sponsor for his/her godchild.

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CONFIRMATION Gift of the Spirit



**Church of St. Anthony
Nanuet, New York**