

Sponsor / Candidate

Meeting #1- The Interview - October

Now that you have chosen your sponsor, it is time to spend a little more time with him/her to really get to know more about his/her faith journey. After all, the life-long role of your sponsor is to walk with you and support you on your own faith journey! You may find that you already know a lot or that there is a lot that you can still learn about each other!

Sometime during October, set up a time to meet with your sponsor to “interview” him/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...not highly recommended). You can meet at a restaurant, at your house or sponsor’s house, you can meet to share a meal, you can meet at a park and go for a walk...Whatever you choose, make it a special time for just the two of you!

You should plan to meet with your sponsor for at least one hour for this meeting. But feel free to meet for as long as you would like. There is no set number of hours spent during your meetings, but we ask that you make your time together fruitful and meaningful.

Although you will be asking your sponsor questions in the format of an interview, your meeting should come across as more of a discussion-where both of you have a chance to add your own insights and thoughts to the conversation. Your sponsor will need to ask questions of you as well! So be ready to answer questions from him/her too. We have provided for you a list of questions to guide you along your discussion, but feel free to ask your sponsor a question that is not included in the list.

This list is a GUIDE... do not feel as though you need to tackle EVERY question, but you should ask enough questions to make you both feel comfortable. We want your experience together to be memorable and meaningful to both of you.

Let’s begin:

- ✝ **Always, always begin your meeting with prayer...**
 - Give thanks to the Lord for bringing you together, for the time spent, and the special place you are meeting
 - Ask him to bless the meeting, that your hearts will be open to His word and each other’s thoughts and feelings, that your meetings together will be fruitful
 - Ask for the intercession of our Blessed Mother or any of the Saints...
 - Pray the Hail Mary or Our Father....
- ✝ **Reflections should always be completed after your meeting with your sponsor.** You are welcome to take notes where appropriate to serve as a guide for reflection.
- ✝ **Begin your meeting using the “Twenty Questions to ask your Confirmation Sponsor”** Feel free to bring a journal to write down thoughts and observations...
- ✝ **Have your SPONSOR sign the reflection form from this meeting.** You will turn this in to your group leader at your next meeting. They will keep track of all your assignments throughout the year.
- ✝ **Set up your next meeting date:** November is SAINTS /SERVICE Month Decide if your sponsor will be helping you with our Youth Serves Weekend in November... or the Lenten Serves Project in March. They can choose both – but need to choose at least one.
- ✝ **End your meeting in PRAYER**
 - Thank God for the time spent together
 - Ask him to bless you both in your next steps as you journey together in faith.
 - Pray Glory Be... or a prayer of your choice

Twenty Questions to ask you Confirmation Sponsor

- † How did you become Catholic? Were you baptized when you were a baby or did you become Catholic as an adult through the RCIA program? Tell me about how your first learned about your faith, what are your first memories?
- † As a Catholic, what makes you different from other Christians?
- † 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?
- † What name did you choose for your Confirmation name and why?
- † Do you have a favorite saint(s)? Why is he/she your favorite? What is there about his/her life that has helped you on your faith journey?
- † How do you define the word “holy?” Do you know people in your life that you would describe as “holy”? Do you think anyone would describe you as “holy”? How does that make you feel? What challenges do you face when you are trying to live a life of holiness?
- † 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 answers to your questions during these times?
- † In what ways do you feel that celebrating the Eucharist (the Mass) every week or (perhaps everyday) strengthens or 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?
- † What is your understanding of what it means “to sin”? What does “forgiveness” mean to you? What do you do when you find it difficult to forgive someone who has hurt you? What do you do when you need to ask forgiveness from someone you have hurt?
- † One very special aspect of our Catholic faith is the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Tell me about your own feelings, thoughts, and experiences about this sacrament. Is it difficult for you to celebrate this Sacrament or was there a time when it was? What kind of preparations do you find helpful before you celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation?
- † How do you pray? 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, who do you usually pray to: God, Jesus, The Holy spirit, Mary, saint? Who or what do you usually pray for?
- † Do you regularly participate in service projects or volunteer opportunities at your parish, work, or in your neighborhood? What do you do and what have you learned from those experiences?
- † How would you answer someone who told you that “Catholics worship Mary”? Who do you turn to or what resources do you use when you find that you do not know an answer to a question about your faith?
- † Have you ever had a time in your life when you really felt close to God? Tell me about it.
- † 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 in the end.
- † Who has been a good role model for you to live according to your Catholic Faith? What has he/she taught you or shown you? How has he/she deepened your faith?
- † In what ways do you think you still need to grow in your Catholic Faith?
- † What do you think are the greatest challenges to being Catholic? What is the BEST thing about being Catholic?

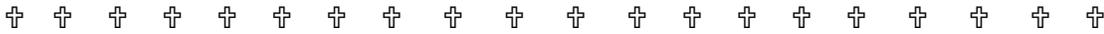
St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church Confirmation Preparation
Meeting #1 The Interview Reflection Sheet

Confirmation Candidate _____

Sponsor's Name _____

Date Meeting #1 took place: _____

Sponsor's Signature _____ Candidate Signature _____



After meeting with your sponsor, reflect upon the questions you discussed. What are some things you learned about your sponsor?

Was there anything that surprised you? Tell about it here...

Write about a story or experience your sponsor shared that you felt showed s/he was truly strengthened by the Holy Spirit... What happened when their life was touched by the Holy Spirit?

Based on your discussion, what are you most excited to learn through confirmation preparation classes?

Based on your discussion, what challenges or questions do you want answered through your Confirmation preparation class?

Rate the following HONESTLY 1 Strongest..... 5 Not at all

- My belief in God 1 2 3 4 5
- God has a plan for me 1 2 3 4 5
- Reconciliation changes lives 1 2 3 4 5
- I read the bible at least once a week 1 2 3 4 5
- I can confidently defend my faith to my peers 1 2 3 4 5

- My ability to make good decisions 1 2 3 4 5
- I look to the Holy Spirit for guidance 1 2 3 4 5
- I make an effort to pray every day 1 2 3 4 5
- I enjoy going to Mass 1 2 3 4 5
- I have a quiet place to spend time with Jesus