

## ***NORMS FOR CONFIRMATION FORMATION AS DIRECTED BY ARCHBISHOP DINARDO***

### **Age for preparation & reception of Confirmation:**

*The Archbishop has established that in this Archdiocese the normative age at which those baptized as infants into the Catholic Church celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation in the 10th or 11th grade.*

### **The CANDIDATE may request the Sacrament if s/he**

1. Is baptized and is able to renew baptismal promises unless a grave reason suggests otherwise.
2. Attended formal religious education (i.e. Faith Formation classes; Catholic School; or approved homeschool program) the year prior to the sacramental year.
3. Exhibits an active faith life and knowledge of the Church.
4. Participates in ongoing, **systematic catechesis** and **sacramental catechesis** for Confirmation
5. Commits to active involvement in the parish Confirmation catechesis.
6. Responds to the call of active ministry.
7. Continues to learn and grow in faith following Confirmation and throughout his/her lifetime.
8. Has received the most Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist and leads a life of faith consistent with the teachings of the Catholic Church. "To receive Confirmation one must be in a state of grace. One should receive the sacrament of penance in order to be cleansed for the gift of the Holy Spirit. More intense prayer should prepare one to receive the strength and graces of the Holy Spirit with docility and readiness to act." (CCC 1310).
9. Must know the required prayers.

### **PARENTS nurture the gift of faith of their child through**

Parents are called to be actively involved in the Confirmation preparation program. However, their involvement is very different than their role as parents in the sacrament of Baptism. Much like the sacraments themselves, the role of the parents is an extension of the commitment they undertook at their child's Baptism. It is the family which serves as the primary community of faith. As the child grows in faith, the parent's role lessens in regards to decision-making and becomes one of support and witness. For the sacrament of Confirmation, the parental role is very much one of spiritual companion and advisor, that is, both parent and child learning and growing in understanding of Catholic traditions and beliefs. As part of their continuing support and witness, parents should attend catechetical sessions provided by the parish for their own faith formation. With the parish's help, parents will be better able to share their own faith journey, thereby helping the candidate in his/her own decision to grow in their faith.

It is the family who serves as the first community of faith. The parents present their child for Baptism and initiation into the community of faith we call "Church." Once this step is taken, a prolonged preparation for full incorporation into the Church has begun with parents nurturing the gift of faith received by their child at Baptism through:

1. Personal witness in their own Christian lifestyle
2. Sharing their own faith experiences
3. Participation in Sunday liturgy with their child

4. Prayer
5. Providing opportunities for their children to fully participate in formal religious education experiences with peers.

### **Candidates must have a **SPONSOR** who**

The sponsor, representing the witness, support and prayers of the entire Church, acts as a spiritual companion with the candidate. The sponsor should be a mature person of faith capable of meeting regularly with the candidate. The person should be comfortable conversing, praying, questioning or offering insights with the candidate.

It is recommended that a sponsor be chosen by the candidate early in the preparation process. When a candidate's baptismal godparent is available, capable, and willing to perform the role as Confirmation sponsor, "it is desirable to choose as sponsor the one who undertook the same function at Baptism" (Code of Canon Law, canon 893).

### **This ministry can be fulfilled by:**

1. Accompanying the candidate to candidate/sponsor sessions, retreats or liturgical celebrations
2. introducing the candidate to the dimension of service in the life of the community, and supporting him/her in some form of service
3. reflecting on scripture and other background reading with the candidate
4. assisting the candidate in the discernment process to know whether he/she is called at this time to make the Confirmation commitment
5. sharing his/her own faith-story with the candidate
6. being a "role model" of witness and example to a Catholic Christian lifestyle
7. presenting the candidate for the sacramental anointing, attesting to the candidate's willingness and readiness to celebrate the sacrament

Once the youth has been fully initiated, the sponsor's task is one of follow-up, which is as important in many ways as all the efforts during the preparation period.