



The Role and Eligibility of the Sponsor According to the Diocese of Pittsburgh

Role: A sponsor must be a person who knows the candidate and can help him/her on his/her spiritual journey and can share his/her own faith. This selection should be indicated at the beginning of the candidate's immediate preparation. Ideally, it should be someone who has been already involved in the spiritual formation of the candidate, such as a godparent or member of the local parish.

Eligibility: A sponsor:

- Must be a practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church.
- Must be at least sixteen years old.
- Must belong to the Catholic Church and have been initiated in the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.
- Must not be prohibited by law from exercising the role of sponsor.
- May be the same sponsor the individual had at Baptism.
- May be a new sponsor selected specifically for Confirmation.
- May be either male or female for any candidate.
- Note: Parents are no longer eligible as sponsors. (1983 – Code of Canon Law)

All Sponsors need to register at greatgrouping.org/sponsor. We will work directly with each Sponsor to get the proper verification in a timely fashion. Sponsors who belong to the Great Grouping will attest to their eligibility online using the following statements:

1. I declare that I am a baptized and confirmed Catholic, and that I am a registered member of Sts. John and Paul Parish.
2. I believe all that the Catholic Church believes and teaches, and I truly make a serious effort to live a good moral life worthy of imitation.
3. As a practicing Catholic, I participate at Mass on Sundays and Holydays, and I receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist regularly.
4. If married, I have been validly married in accordance with Canon Law.
5. I realize that I assume a great responsibility before God and the Church in becoming a sponsor. I intend to encourage my candidate in the practice of the Catholic faith by word and example.

Sponsors from other parishes will need to obtain a **Sponsor Form** (aka Certificate of Eligibility) from his or her parish, stating that he or she is eligible to serve as a sponsor for Confirmation (using the same or similar questions as are listed above).