October 7, 2019  
*Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary*

Dear Confirmation Sponsor!

Congratulations! You have been chosen by a young person for this special role in their life. As a Confirmation sponsor, you have accepted a responsibility that is an honor in our Church. Your role is to spiritually walk with the candidate during the preparation for this sacrament. You will be assisting in being a true witness and disciple of Jesus and representing the community when you present your candidate to our Bishops. Our process is designed to give the Confirmation candidates time to take all they have learned in their formation years and begin to try and understand how it all fits together. As your candidate walks through this journey, it is vital that you walk beside them.

That is why we are calling for your active involvement in meeting with your candidate at least four times between now and April 2020. These sessions are a time for the two of you to talk about faith and how it is part of each of your lives. We have provided you both with questions to make this time more fruitful. Your Confirmation candidate will need to write a short reflection on each of your four visits together.

Christian spirituality is passed on from one generation to the next as much or more through the shared experience of WHY and HOW we live out our conviction for Christ as through WHAT we say and teach. The intention of this conversation is not necessarily for you to teach your candidate (although if they have questions to which you are able to provide accurate answers, you should do so). The intention is rather to have an honest “heart to heart” talk about how believing in God and Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit makes a difference in your life, that is, in your relationships with other people, in your decisions and choices, and in your perspective on life. You should discuss how being a member of the Roman Catholic tradition, with its unique strengths and weaknesses, has influenced your own personal spiritual journey. We each have our own relationships with Christ that are sometimes clear, passionate and vibrant, while at other times they are muddled and messy.

Do not be intimidated by this. Just be yourself and be honest. We have known of Confirmation candidates whose conversations with their sponsors were extremely positive factors in their decisions to be confirmed. The candidates were not sure of where they stood until they were able to hear someone who openly shared with them personal stories for the journey with God, which could include struggle, pain, confusion, searching, insight, love, forgiveness, peace, joy or any combination of those realities of life, as well as many others. And perhaps more importantly, the candidates were able to voice their own beliefs, doubts, questions, convictions, and experiences to someone who would LISTEN!

Thank you for agreeing to be a sponsor. Perhaps you did not realize what you were getting yourself into - I think we can say with some confidence that God will make the “journey” just as life giving for you as for your candidate. If at any time during this Confirmation journey you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call or email us!

*We hope that you have already received a copy of the Sacrament of Confirmation Handbook for 2019-2020. There is vital information in this handbook. Most importantly, please make sure to familiarize yourself with pages 7-9. We will recap a few items in this special letter just for sponsors:*
Often, we are asked, “what qualifies someone to be a Confirmation sponsor”? The Church asks the following of sponsors:

- A sponsor must be fully initiated into the Roman Catholic Church (Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation)
- A sponsor must be at least 16 years old.
- A sponsor cannot be a parent of the child to be confirmed.
- A sponsor must be in good standing with the Catholic Church.
- A sponsor must be a practicing Catholic. (*Please refer the Catechism of the Catholic Church, numbers 2041-2043 for further explanation about the Precepts of the Church*).

If you are unsure if you are in good standing with the Catholic Church, please contact Katie Schaitberger, Director of Faith Formation as soon as possible. We are happy to talk more and help you to remedy anything that might prohibit you from being a Confirmation sponsor. The Catholic Church doesn’t create rules “just because”. In the end, she always wants to make sure we are preparing ourselves for eternal life!

**At Nativity, we have laid out our expectations of sponsors:**

1. Commit the time to help prepare the student for Confirmation during their 7th and 8th grade years.
2. Meet four times with the student and discuss questions found in handbook.
3. Write a letter of support sharing why the student is ready for Confirmation. A template of this letter can be found on our website if desired.
4. Participate in at least one service experience with the student.
5. Attend special Confirmation liturgies including:
   a. Covenant Mass – November 6, 2019 at 7pm in Church
   b. Confirmation Vigil (Fall of 8th Grade)
   c. Confirmation Liturgy at Cathedral of St. Paul (Fall of 8th Grade)
6. Attend Mass with student when possible.
7. Make themselves available to guide the Confirmed after Confirmation.
8. Encourage the Confirmed to practice their faith by frequenting the sacraments, serving as good examples to society, and living up to their commitment to spread and defend the faith.

We are happy to answer any questions you may have. Know that we continue to pray for you as you guide the young people of Nativity of Our Lord Parish and School.

Kate Wollan
Principal
Nativity of Our Lord School
651-696-5410
kwollan@nativity-mn.org

Katie Schaitberger
Director of Faith Formation
Nativity of Our Lord Parish
651-696-5441
kschaitberger@nativity-mn.org