

THE ROLE OF THE CONFIRMATION SPONSOR

You have been asked to play a very important role in the life of a young Catholic who is preparing to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation. Experience has shown that the time of preparing for Confirmation is often the real turning point in the faith life of a young person. Your interaction with your candidate over the weeks and months ahead will contribute in a very vital way to that process of spiritual growth.

You were asked to fill this role because you are the godparent of your candidate, or because of the ties of friendship or family, or because you are viewed by the candidate as a model Catholic. Perhaps all these reasons were involved in the choice. Whichever the case, you are now embarking on a shared faith journey that can enrich both you and your candidate.

The role of the sponsor is more than the honor to stand behind a Confirmation Candidate as the bishop confirms. It is to be the beginning (or the continuation) of a lasting relationship of mentoring and apprenticeship.

The Church sees three roles for Confirmation sponsors:

First, as a role model in the faith. Because of this, the Church asks that a sponsor be at least sixteen years of age, has celebrated the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist, and be a practicing member of the Church. He or she does not have to be the same gender as the Confirmation candidate.

Second, a sponsor is a companion on the candidate's faith journey. Ideally, this could be one of the candidate's baptismal godparents. This is encouraged by the Church today - to show the close connection of the two sacraments.

And finally, the Confirmation sponsor witnesses for the candidate before the Church. By their presence at the Confirmation celebration, the sponsor publicly proclaims the candidate's readiness.

Sponsors are encouraged to become involved with the candidates by:

- Praying for your candidate and yourself.
- Renewing your own appreciation of what it means to be a Christian.
- Growing in your personal relationship with the Holy Spirit.
- Being a living model of faith. Your life doesn't have to become artificially saintly, but your faith should be authentic and sincere.
- Continue to be a source of encouragement and support to the candidate after Confirmation.

Sponsor Covenant

The Covenant is the solemn agreement entered into by God and his people. God's faithful and loving commitment to us was fulfilled in Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world. As you now prepare to sponsor a candidate for Confirmation you are also called to enter into a covenant relationship. Read over the promises below. As a sign of your serious commitment to fulfill your role as a sponsor sign your name at the end of this covenant. Print your candidate's name on the space provided, and return your signed copy to your Confirmation Candidate as soon as possible.

As a Confirmation Sponsor, I pledge.....

- **To be a living example of faith for my candidate.**
- **To work willingly with my candidate throughout the preparation process.**
- **To discuss on a regular basis what my candidate is learning in formal sessions.**
- **To reflect with my candidate on the meaning of Confirmation in the life of a Catholic.**
- **To participate in candidate/sponsor events and prayer experiences, and**
- **To be open to growing in my own faith as I journey through the preparation process with my candidate.**

I ask the help of the Holy Spirit as I begin this preparation process with my candidate. I pray that the Holy Spirit will be with me as I dedicate myself to living the commitment I make through this covenant.

Sponsor's Signature

Sponsor's Name (Please Print)

Candidate's Signature

Candidate's Name (Please Print)