

SPONSOR'S GUIDE

As a Confirmation sponsor, you do have specific functions. The Church describes them as the following:

- developing a faith relationship with the candidate
- accompanying the candidate, if possible, to special liturgies
- standing with the candidate before the bishop and the community helping the candidate live as a follower of Jesus

Some of the following suggestions will not be possible if you live away from the area but be creative and think of ways to be in contact with the candidate.

- Arrange opportunities to spend time with the candidate and to enjoy being together. Some of these times can relate directly to the Confirmation program.
- Discuss with the candidate the efforts, progress and problems experienced in preparing for the reception of Confirmation. Help them to study the Basic Faith concepts and discuss their class work. See if there are any questions or concerns.
- Perhaps you can help the candidate choose service projects. You might even be able to help carry one out.
- Offer suggestions and encouragement, as they are needed.
- Arrange some time to pray together, or to read a passage from Scripture together. If you live close by, make plans to participate in the Eucharist (Mass) together.
- Keep in contact with your candidate either in person or on the telephone.

Take time for yourself. Put aside some time for thinking and praying. Sponsors can begin to see how they can improve the quality of their ministry. There are many ways to go about this. One could just spend time alone, quietly reflecting; take up a journal and attempt writing one's reflections; or talk over things with a friend.

It even helps to talk over things with the candidate. You might ask yourself:

- What has my candidate taught me about my faith this week?
- What did I learn about myself this week?
- What can I do to encourage my candidate in his/her faith life?
- What do I want to pray especially for this week?

We pray that your role as a sponsor will be an enriching one.

A sponsor must meet the following requirements:

- *Be at least 16 years old*
- *A practicing Catholic who has received all the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation)*
- *In good standing with the Church*
- *NOT the father or mother of the candidate*

The sponsor's home parish verifying he/she is qualified to be a sponsor must fill out a sponsor certificate.

SPONSOR'S PRAYER

**God of all ages,
You send out Your Spirit
to touch the hearts of all people,
so that they may believe in You
and in Jesus whom You sent.**

**Look kindly on all candidates for Confirmation
as they listen to Your voice.
Open their hearts to Your Spirit
and bring to fulfillment the good work
that You have begun in them.**

**As I reach out to my candidate,
make me an instrument of Your love.
Teach me to reverence what is holy in others,
and to be patient with what I do not understand.
Deepen my faith in the Gospel
and help me to pass it on by my example.**

**With those who are hesitant or afraid,
let me be a source of encouragement;
and with those who are weak,
let me be a pillar of strength.**

**I humbly accept the ministry of sponsor
and pray that You will continue to guide me
and sustain me.**

We praise you through Christ our Lord.

Amen.