

## Who is a Sponsor?

From the earliest days of the Church, specific people were chosen from the community to support those seeking full communion. Sponsors serve as a faithful guide — a spiritual companion for the candidate and a witness before the community to the candidate's own moral character, faith, and intentions.

Confirmation is a journey of the candidate to a greater understanding of his/her relationship with God. It is a time to cultivate a deeper awareness of the spiritual relationship we are called to through Baptism to build with Christ. A sponsor needs to be willing and able to witness to this spiritual journey, to share their own journey with the candidate, and to challenge the candidate to explore and deepen their own personal faith.

The sponsor must be a baptized, confirmed, and an active Catholic.

The sponsor must be at least sixteen years of age.

The sponsor may not be the candidate's parent.

“It is desirable that the godparents at Baptism also be the sponsor at Confirmation in order to express more clearly the relationship between Baptism and Confirmation and to make the duty and function of the sponsor more effective.” Canon 34

Candidates ask an individual sponsor (that means ONE) to be a part of their preparation. At the Rite of Anointing, only one sponsor should accompany the candidate to the bishop.

The sponsor for any candidate may be male or female.

A local sponsor is preferred to ensure consistent involvement throughout preparation for Confirmation.

# Ways to Support and Affirm the Candidate

Each sponsor comes forward as a gift within the community. You are a sign of a spiritual relationship. You are a guide and a support to the candidate.

Spend time sharing. Find opportunities during the process to describe your experience of Confirmation. Opportunities to serve together can be extraordinary experiences during sacramental preparation.

Celebrate with your candidate the liturgies that are planned during the preparation program together.

Keep “in touch” with your candidate: Call, email, or send a small prayer note.

Pray for the candidate: that the gifts of the Holy Spirit will bless and keep them strong in their faith support.