
Guidelines for Confirmation sponsor.

The role of the Confirmation sponsor is to, "Continue to help the candidate along the road of Christian life, to safeguard and develop the grace given at Baptism and now sealed with the Holy Spirit." (CCC 1320)

A Confirmation sponsor should be a practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church. The sponsor should be able and willing to commit to the following responsibilities.

- Be a role model for your candidate through prayer and the life you live.
- Pray that God will give you the time and wisdom to serve in this role.
- Pray for your Confirmation candidate. Pray especially that the candidate will be receptive to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, that the gifts of the Holy Spirit would be increased in the candidate, that the candidate will use the graces given to him for a daily conversion in his life.
- Meet periodically with your candidate to get to know him better.
 - Listen. As a Confirmation sponsor it is important to listen to where the candidate is in his spiritual journey. Prompt him to share only as much as he/she is comfortable with.
 - Share with your spiritual journey with your candidate so that he may see God's action in your life. With young students, be prudent as to what you should/should not share.
 - Ask your candidate what he feels is the importance of actively living out his faith in his life, how he plans to continue living this out and the importance of prayer in his struggles to live out the faith.
 - Respect his freedom. Allow candidates to express themselves, even if they disagree with Church teachings, possibly do not believe in God, or do not want to be confirmed. Pray, listen, be firm, loving and give them guidance and hope for their future as a Catholic. Encourage students to pray and trust that God is working in their lives.
 - If necessary, remind candidates that there are many opposing forces to Catholicism in our culture. Encourage them to resist the temptations they face, to pray for the grace and gifts of the Holy Spirit to keep them vigilant and steadfast in their journey.
 - As a Confirmation sponsor it is important to respect the confidentiality of your candidate. If there are major concerns, obtain their permission to share these with the catechist, DRE, or pastor.
 - Always support the teachings of the Church, do not speak negatively about the Church. If asked questions with which you do not know the answers, be willing to say, I don't know. Find answers to questions or refer to the catechist, program director, or pastor.
 - Find out from the parish or school what the candidate's requirements (study, spiritual, service) to encourage, assist or follow up where needed or required by your parish/school.
- Because your candidate has been baptized, he has been given the virtues of faith, hope, and love. In whatever way you are able (prayer, knowledge, spiritual guidance), nurture these virtues:
 - *Faith* to believe in God and in Church teachings.
 - *Hope* for eternal life.
- Trust in the power of the Holy Spirit to work in your candidate's life and respond to the promptings of the Holy Spirit.
- Attend any required meetings by the parish/school.