

Helping Your Child Choose a Confirmation Sponsor

When you brought your baby for the Sacrament of Baptism, you did so with the support of the Church community and your baby's godparents. Godparents and the entire Church community share the responsibility for ensuring that your child recognizes God's grace in his/her life and lives in the way of Jesus Christ.

The Confirmation sponsor represents the Catholic faith community in the Rite of Confirmation. Because the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation are intimately connected, the Church encourages candidates for Confirmation to choose one of their baptismal godparents as a sponsor. If the godparents are deceased, no longer qualified, or not readily available, another Catholic adult who is actively practicing his/her faith and whose life is a witness to Christ may be chosen.

A sponsor accompanies the candidate on the spiritual journey through the preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation and beyond. The prescribed requirements for the sponsor are:

- ◆ To be a fully initiated Catholic; who has celebrated the Sacraments of Baptism, Communion, and Confirmation.
- ◆ One who leads a life in harmony with the Catholic faith.
- ◆ To be at least 16 years of age.
- ◆ To have the intention of performing this role.
- ◆ Not be the father or mother of the candidate.
- ◆ To be chosen by the candidate, parents or guardian.

A proxy may represent the chosen sponsor in presenting the candidate for Confirmation if the sponsor is unable to attend the Rite. A parent or other baptized practicing Catholic at least sixteen years of age may fulfill this role.