

Confirmation Sponsor Meeting

Current Paradigm—

- a. Just a few short years after Vatican II the roots of Christianity were “rediscovered”
- b. This model is grounded in the RCIA or Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults where the sponsor represents the community in helping the candidate receive a deeper welcoming into the larger Catholic community and a continued effort to deepen one’s understanding of our faith. With the Sacrament of Confirmation, there is an increase and deepening of the graces of the Holy Spirit. One is strengthened and sustained by the power of the Holy Spirit and through the active involvement in the community of believers
- c. This is the current paradigm being used in most Confirmation preparation programs

So, continued education in the faith is something that everyone should participate in and it is the Catholic View of Faith Formation-

-It is a life long journey of attaining knowledge of our faith and conversion of our hearts. It is a life long journey of drawing closer to God through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.

The Role of the Sponsor

- a) Spokesperson and Christian role model, one who could vouch for the candidate and help the candidate on their journey
- b) Adult role model for children being confirmed which has through the years been somewhat reduced to an honorary title; it became simply a ceremonial event with little participation
- c) Today: a sponsor should be one who represents, on behalf of the greater Catholic community, in welcoming candidates into a deeper initiation. Talk about your faith and your involvement in your parish community.
- d) A sponsor should be a companion on the journey toward a deeper initiation into the community. The role is that of a mentor, which is also the role of a co-learner. Your role is also to help them deepen their faith to help them on their continued conversion or change of heart and openness to the Holy Spirit in their lives.
- e) This is also recognizing that the sponsor has not yet reached Christian perfection and that we are on the same journey, although we are more experienced and we have the ability to recognize our shortcomings. i.e. Share things with them where you could use God’s help more or say maybe you need to go to Confession more frequently and invite them to go.
- f) We recognize that we are weak, but through the grace of the Holy Spirit we can become stronger.
- g) We are able to show the Candidates that our faith sustains us.

Expectations of a Sponsor

A. *The Apostolic Constitution on the Sacrament of Confirmation* describes three activities for sponsors to perform.

1. Bring the candidates to receive the sacrament
2. Present them to the bishop for the anointing
3. Help them fulfill their baptismal promises-understanding their faith; the

Creed and live as a priest prophet and king: responding to God's call as priest, seeking as a disciple of Christ as prophet and having dignity through a life in Christ as a king.

B. Sponsors must be full members of the Christian community and mature persons

C. Other "jobs" of the sponsor

- 1). Answer your candidate's questions about the Church and help them to get him or her to know the parish or greater Catholic Church a little better
- 2). Help the parish community to get to know your candidate better by attending parish functions and encouraging them to become involved in parish activities.

D. Building a Relationship with Your Candidate in relation to your role as their sponsor.

- 1) Engage in "one-minute ministry"-all healthy relationships are built and strengthened by brief encounters where the right words are said
 - call them or text them
 - for example, you could wish them the best on a test day
- 2) Let the Candidate lead and teach you
 - Put students in the role of leadership after finding out their interests
- 3) Share what is, rather than create what isn't. Take advantage of what is already going on in your lives.
 - Things are going on in the life of the Candidate that you can already support or things are already going on in your life that you can involve them in.
- d) Share some God-talk...with care
 - "I wonder..." statements
 - Ask them what they are learning in class: the sponsor book will help greatly with this
- 4) Take time with the Bible-share with them some of the more favorite Bible verses that have helped you grow in your faith
- 5) Pray for your Candidate
 - tell them you are praying for them and really do it
 - Involve your family in praying for them even if it is a recited prayer
 - Set time aside to do it together
 - It may feel awkward at first, but practice; it **will** help you get closer
 - write a letter to them
- 6) Attend programs related meetings/offer rides/go to dinner or get ice-cream before
See the calendar of events
- 7) Attend parish activities together-Mass, dinners, soup and stations
Giving Tree

Do service work together with them.

8) Help them with the content of the material they are covering in their Catechesis

9) Be honest and don't be afraid to open up while staying away from inappropriate questions that might be too personal, but tell them that as well. If you have any great stories of your life and faith journey, this is a great time to share them.

10) Talk to them on the phone or e-mail them, or text them. Don't wait for them to call you. Stay up to date.

E) Be Prepared for your lesson