

The Role of Confirmation Sponsor

The role of the Confirmation Sponsor involves much more than simply standing behind the Candidate as the bishop confirms. It is the beginning or the continuation of a lasting relationship of mentoring and guidance.

The prayers and support of the Sponsor are an important part of preparation for Confirmation, and helps the Confirmation Candidate live his or her baptismal promises both before and after Confirmation.

Qualifications

To serve as a Sponsor for Confirmation within the Catholic Church:

- The individual must be at least 16 years old.
- He or she must have received the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation in the Catholic Church.
- If he or she is married, the marriage should have taken place in the Catholic Church.
- The person must have the intention, the ability, and adequate time to be a Sponsor.
- The Sponsor should live according to the Catholic Faith: attend Mass every weekend and receive the sacraments of the Church regularly, especially Reconciliation and the Eucharist. (A Catholic is required to receive Reconciliation and Eucharist once each year.)
- The Sponsor should practice the Faith within a Catholic parish community, and live a moral life.

Suggested Ways to Support a Candidate

- Help the Candidate become aware of his or her reasons for receiving the sacrament of Confirmation.
- Help the Candidate understand and appreciate the sacrament of Confirmation, and have the right intention for receiving it.
- Help the Candidate prepare for Confirmation by encouraging him or her to pray, to participate in the sacraments, especially the Eucharist and Reconciliation, and to become actively involved in the life of their parish.
- Support the Candidate and their family, and be a good example of Catholic Christian living.
- Meet with the Candidate on a regular basis for Mass, prayer, faith-sharing, reading Scripture, and discussions about the Christian life.
- Help the Candidate understand what it means to be a true disciple of Jesus Christ.
- Present the Candidate to the bishop for Confirmation.
- Ensure that the confirmed person behaves as a true witness of Christ and faithfully fulfills the obligations inherent in this sacrament.
- Continue to encourage the confirmed person to live a Catholic Christian life through:
 - prayer and the celebration of the sacraments
 - living the Gospel of Jesus Christ
 - turning to other Catholics for support and guidance
 - studying the Catholic Faith

Additional Information about Sponsors

A parent may not serve as a Sponsor for their child. It is true that this arrangement was allowed at one time, but it is currently not allowed within the Catholic Church.

The gender of the person serving is not a deciding factor. The Sponsor may be a man or woman. A man may serve as a Sponsor for a girl, a woman may serve as a Sponsor for a boy, or the Candidate may choose a Sponsor of their own gender. One of a Candidate's Godparents is an ideal choice. Choosing the same person as Sponsor for both Baptism and Confirmation helps emphasize the connection between the two sacraments.

La Función del Padrino/Madrina de Confirmación

El papel del padrino/madrina de confirmación implica mucho más que simplemente estar parado detrás del candidato/a al momento que el Obispo los confirma. Es el comienzo o la continuación de una relación duradera de tutoría y orientación. Las oraciones y el apoyo del padrino/madrina son una parte importante de la preparación para la confirmación, y ayuda a los candidatos de confirmación a vivir sus promesas bautismales tanto antes como después de la Confirmación.

Cualidades

Para servir como padrino/madrina para la confirmación de la Iglesia Católica:

- El individuo debe de tener por lo menos la edad de 16 años.
- Él o ella debe haber recibido los sacramentos del Bautismo y la Confirmación en la Iglesia Católica.
- Si él o ella está casado, el matrimonio debe haber ocurrido en la Iglesia Católica.
- La persona debe tener la intención, la capacidad y tiempo suficiente para ser un padrino/madrina.
- El padrino/madrina debe vivir según la fe católica: asistir a la Misa cada fin de semana y recibir los sacramentos de la Iglesia con regularidad, especialmente la Reconciliación y la Eucaristía. (Es requerido que un católico reciba la Reconciliación y la Eucaristía una vez al año).
- El padrino/madrina debe practicar la fe dentro de una comunidad Católica parroquial y vivir una vida moral.

Maneras Suggeridas Para Apoyar a Un Candidato/a

- Ayude al candidato/a ha tomar conciencia de sus razones para recibir el Sacramento de la confirmación.
- Ayude al el Candidato/a ha entender y apreciar el Sacramento de la Confirmación, y tener la intención correcta para recibirlo.
- Ayude al candidato/a ha prepararse para la Confirmación alentándolo/a ha orar, a participar en los sacramentos, especialmente la Eucaristía y la Reconciliación y a involucrarse activamente en la vida de su parroquia.
- Apoye al Candidato/a y su familia, y sea un buen ejemplo de la vida cristiana de un católico.
- Reúnase con el Candidato/a regularmente para la Misa, oración, compartimiento de fe, ha leer las Escrituras y discusiones sobre la vida cristiana.
- Ayude al Candidato/a ha entender que significa ser un verdadero discípulo de Jesucristo.
- Presente al Candidato/a ante el Obispo para la Confirmación.
- Asegúrese de que la persona confirmada se comporte como un verdadero testigo de Cristo y cumpla fielmente las obligaciones esenciales a este Sacramento.
- Continúe alentando a la persona confirmada para vivir una vida cristiana Católica a través de:
 - la oración y la celebración de los sacramentos
 - a vivir el Evangelio de Jesucristo
 - respáldese en otros católicos para apoyo y guía
 - estudiando la fe católica.

Información Adicional Sobre El Padrino/Madrina

Los padres no pueden ser padrino/madrina para su niño. Es cierto que este arreglo se permitió alguna vez, pero actualmente no está permitido dentro de la Iglesia Católica.

El género de la persona que no es un factor decisivo. El padrino/madrina puede ser un hombre o una mujer. Un hombre puede servir como padrino para una niña, una mujer puede servir como madrina para un niño, o el candidato/a puede elegir su padrino/madrina de su propio género. Uno de los padrinos de bautizo es una opción ideal. Elegir a la misma persona como padrino/madrina para bautismo y confirmación ayuda a enfatizar la conexión entre los dos sacramentos.

Choosing Your Confirmation Sponsor

You do not have to make this journey alone. Along the way, you will make connections with certain people who demonstrate in their lives what it means to be a Catholic. A sponsor at confirmation is someone who will stand up for you before the community, present you to the bishop, and witness the anointing with the chrism oil. The sponsor's influence in your life continues after the celebration. The sponsor should serve as someone you can turn to for help and guidance as you continue the journey of faith in the years ahead. *Take care in your selection, for you really want to make sure you pick someone who is able and willing to fulfill the task.*

Your sponsor will be your partner and guide through the personal formation part of your preparation for the Sacrament. You will meet with them at least 3 times this year to discuss various topics related to your faith and participate in activities that help guide you through the Catholic faith. Sponsors will not only stand with the candidate at the time of Confirmation, but should be an example and role model, personally bearing witness to what it means to be led by the Holy Spirit.

In making the selection for a sponsor, keep the following in mind:

- ♫ Sponsors **must** be a practicing Catholic, who practices the faith and attends Mass regularly
- ♫ Sponsor's **must** be at least 16 years of age
- ♫ Sponsor's **must** have been baptized and received the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Catholic Church
- ♫ Sponsor may **not** be parent or legal guardian of the candidate but they may be a relative
- ♫ It is desirable that the sponsor for Confirmation be the baptismal sponsor, but not necessary
- ♫ Sponsors do not need to be the same gender as the candidate

When choosing your sponsor consider this:

- ✓ Who in your family or circle of family friends inspires your faith? How do they inspire you?
- ✓ Do they model the Catholic faith?
- ✓ Are they a committed follower of Christ?
- ✓ Do they regularly receive the sacraments– reconciliation/penance, eucharist
- ✓ Do they strive to grow in knowledge of Christ and the Church?
- ✓ Are they actively involved in the parish to which they belong?

Also consider the following:

- o Who can you comfortably speak with concerning faith and questions that may arise on your journey?
- o Who is able to give of their time to be your sponsor?
- o Who will make it a priority to be present with me; physically and/or “in spirit” on Confirmation day?
- o Who would be willing to keep you on track and prepared to receive the sacrament?
- o Who can you trust to support you in your daily endeavors and help make critical life decisions?

Some final thoughts...Who would be willing and eager to guide you along your journey as you continue to learn:

- ✓ How to pray in new ways?
- ✓ To witness?
- ✓ To recognize the workings of the Holy Spirit
- ✓ More about your parish and how to better participate in parish life?
- ✓ How to overcome doubts, fear, and temptation through their relationship with God?

After carefully choosing a sponsor, give your sponsor the Sworn Statement for Confirmation Sponsors packet. They will bring the form to their church to get it validated, and then must turn it in to St. Isidore at 427 W Army Trail Rd. Bloomingdale, IL 60108 by September 28th.