Selection of "My Confirmation Sponsor"

Duties & Responsibilities

A sponsor for a Confirmation candidate is meant to provide spiritual help to the candidate (Catechism 1311). He or she should be willing to serve as a strong and lasting Christian influence on the candidate. The sponsor enters into a spiritual relationship with the candidate and acts as a sort of spiritual parent and mentor. Therefore, it is both a great blessing and a responsibility to commit to the role of a sponsor.

Each candidate may choose **only one sponsor**; it may be either a man or a woman. A sponsor takes on a life-long commitment to help their candidate persevere in the Faith. According to the Code of Canon Law (892), "The sponsor is to take care that the confirmed person behaves as a true witness of Christ and faithfully fulfills the obligations inherent in this sacrament." The Church states that it is desirable that the sponsor would be one of the person's godparents; however, this is not a requirement (893, §2). The sponsor needs to be a registered member of a Catholic parish in order to get the Sponsor Certificate of Eligibility signed by the pastor.

According to Canon 874, a sponsor must meet the following criteria:

- Must be 16 years old or older
- Must have received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist
- Must not be a parent of the one to be confirmed

This canon (874, §1, 1) also states that the sponsor must lead "a life of faith in keeping with the function to be taken on." Therefore, the following persons are **not eligible** to act as a sponsor:

- Persons married outside the Catholic Church
- Persons who habitually miss Sunday Mass
- Divorced persons who have remarried outside the Catholic Church
- Persons cohabiting without the benefit and grace of Catholic marriage
- Persons who neglect the religious education of their children
- High school students who do not attend their parish's RE classes or Youth Group
- Individuals who neglect to fulfill their "Easter Duty" that is, Communion at least once a year during the Easter season and Confession once a year if in the state of mortal sin
- Those who give public scandal in any way

In the event that the sponsor cannot attend the Confirmation liturgy in person, a proxy, explicitly designated by the sponsor, who fulfills the above qualifications, may stand in for the sponsor during the liturgy. If the Confirmation candidate has a proxy, he or she must notify the Religious Education Office in advance. **A parent may not be a sponsor**, though they may act as the proxy if the sponsor cannot attend.

This is who I would like to have as my CONFIRMATION SPONSOR:

The sponsor must meet the criteria listed on the Sponsor pages of this packet.

Confirmation Candidate's Full Name: _____
No Nick Names! LAST FIRST MIDDLE

Confirmation Sponsor's Full Name: _____
No Nick Names! LAST FIRST MIDDLE

Sponsor's Home Parish: _____

Your Relation to Sponsor: _____

(A SPONSOR CERTIFICATE MUST BE SUBMITTED TO ST. JOHN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE.)

Proxy's Proper Full Name: _____

(A proxy is a stand-in for the sponsor if they are unable to attend the Confirmation ceremony. All proxies need a sponsor certificate.)