



Diocese of Belleville
Office of the Bishop

Sacrament of Confirmation

GUIDELINES for the Confirmation Sponsor

A sponsor is a person chosen by the candidate or family as a mentor in the process of full initiation into the Catholic Church. The sponsor's role is to walk the journey of faith as a companion to the youth being fully initiated. This person should have good rapport with the *Confirmand*.

If you have been asked to be a sponsor of a young person, it means that you hold a special place in their faith lives. Please consider this responsibility carefully.

Requirements for a sponsor:

1. Be chosen by the candidate or family;
2. Be 17 years of age or older;
3. Be a fully initiated (all three sacraments of initiation) practicing Catholic in good canonical standing who participates in Sunday liturgy, leads a life in harmony with the faith and the role to be undertaken and is willing and able to participate in the Eucharist with his/her candidate;
4. Not be the father nor mother of the one to be confirmed;
5. Ideally be the baptismal sponsor so that the link between Baptism and Confirmation is expressed clearly;
6. Only one sponsor per candidate;
7. Should live close enough to be able to maintain appropriate contact with the candidate before and after Confirmation.
8. Because of the spiritual and formal nature of the Confirmation Rite, sponsors should be dressed appropriately.

Gentlemen: Please do not wear jeans and sneakers and t-shirts. Dress pants and a dress shirt with tie and jacket are appropriate attire.

Ladies: Please do not wear low cut tops and extremely short hemlines. They are immodest and inappropriate attire.

Role of sponsor:

1. Be someone with a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and a commitment to the Catholic Church;
2. Be a mentor who knows the candidate and can witness to the maturing faith of the candidate before the community;
3. Be a learner who is interested in his/her faith development as he/she walks in the faith journey of the candidate;
4. Be a guide who will invite the candidate into fuller participation in parish life and service.

Sponsors are expected to:

1. Be willing to commit themselves for the rest of their lives to guiding the newly confirmed as a disciple of Jesus Christ and a faithful member of the Catholic Church.
2. Attend sponsor orientation meetings (which every parish should have);
3. Attend specific gatherings with the candidate (catechetical sessions, retreat, Mass, day of reflection, rites, rehearsals);
4. Participate in all formal liturgical rites and rehearsal in the Confirmation process, including the Confirmation Mass itself;
5. Meet/talk regularly with the candidate outside of sessions, to encourage and to assist him/her to grow in knowledge, in prayer, in service, in worship and in participation in the parish community.

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