

For The Confirmation Sponsor

Congratulations! One of our Parish's Confirmation Candidates values your faith, finds trust in you and knows that you are someone who will care about him or her and his or her faith development. Being a Confirmation sponsor is not all that complicated, but it does take time, a caring heart and a listening ear. Here are a few suggestions on how to be the best possible sponsor for your candidate:

- Be a living model of faith. The young person choosing you as a sponsor sees in you a person of faith and that is what he or she needs most of all. This young person needs a living witness of a practicing Catholic who is active in his or her parish, who participates in the Sunday Mass and lives a life that reflects the Catholic faith. This commitment challenges you to get more involved in the life of your parish, to learn more about your faith and to strengthen your spiritual life. However, if after honest consideration you recognize that your life does not reflect the role of the sponsor described above or for some reason you cannot undertake all of the responsibilities of being a sponsor, it may be best to decline the invitation. Being a Confirmation sponsor does not mean that you have to become artificially saintly, but rather requires that your faith is authentic and sincere.
- Pray for your candidate and for yourself. As the candidate decides to be confirmed, he or she needs spiritual strength. Your prayers are important, but do not forget to pray for yourself also, that you can share why you value and practice your Catholic Faith. Attend Mass together, spend a day or a short time praying together, or even have the courage to come to Reconciliation together.
- Give of your time and share your gifts. You will be asked to spend time together on some activities. This may mean sharing something together or even working on a Christian service project together with your candidate. You could also share your own experiences or write a letter of encouragement to your candidate. Whatever gifts and talents God has given you, use them to their best during this time. Offer a gift of spiritual significance: a new Bible, rosary or book about our faith or about the saint the candidate has chosen for a Confirmation name. Be creative and relevant.
- Do not miss the Confirmation Mass. Participating in the Confirmation Mass is the easiest part of being a sponsor. Your basic job will be to place your hand on your candidate's shoulder, and tell the bishop your candidate's Confirmation name. You are there to be a support, but your role on Confirmation day is only the beginning.
- Do not forget this newly Confirmed young Catholic. After Confirmation day, remember his or her birthday and the anniversary of the Confirmation day. Send a card or make a phone call. Continue to worship together, or from time to time do some Christian service. Put those "Gifts of the Spirit" into practice.

Here is what St Peter and Paul Parish Expect of the Confirmation Sponsors:

- Be available and willing to talk about your faith with your candidate.
- Accompany the candidate and present him/her to the Bishop at the Celebration of Confirmation.
- Complete the Eligibility letter found in this manual and return it to the parish office no later than December 1, 2008.
- Attend the Breakfast and Call to Confirmation Mass with your candidate (if able) on December 7, 2008.

Thank you for saying yes to journey with one of our Parish's Candidates to Confirmation. We are looking forward to meeting you at the Call to Confirmation. If you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact Peter, Karen or Deacon Doug at the Parish Office.

You are in our prayers.

Sincerely,

Peter Czerwinski Deacon Doug Boyer Karen Seaborn
Pastoral Associate for Youth Parish Administrator Pastoral Associate for Adult