

## **Being a Spiritual Guide** **A Guide for Sponsors**

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You have been chosen to sponsor one of our candidates for Confirmation in our parish. What an honor! This means that you are regarded as a person of example, a person someone looks up to as a model Christian, someone who can be counted on for support and guidance.

### **WHAT IS A SPONSOR?**

Sponsors always ask us: "What do I have to do?" What is a more important question, however, is 'Who do you have to be?' Your role is invaluable in the Confirmation candidate's life. Being a sponsor for someone (either at Baptism or Confirmation) means living as an example of Jesus' life and message. It means guiding another person with support and challenge as they make the commitment to live out their Baptismal call as full members of the Church. This is certainly an awesome task, but not beyond the capacity of anyone who sees themselves as a humble servant of Jesus.



We invite you to find time in your life to develop your companionship with this candidate so that you can deepen the relationship of trust and respect that you already have.

As a sponsor, you do not only act on your own behalf. By your care and example of the candidate, you also symbolize and represent the care and support of the larger Christian community. You represent the Church.

### **WHAT DOES A SPONSOR DO?**

Now, back to the question of "What do you have to do?" The process we use to prepare candidates for Confirmation in this parish entails a series of small and large group sessions. We invite you to talk to your candidate about their experience of these meetings. Ask them what they talked about, what they learned and how they felt about it.

You are invited not only to the Celebration of Confirmation itself on March 27, 2011 but also to the Call to Sacramental Preparation and Formation on January 9 at the 12:15 PM Mass at which all of the young people are officially enrolled as candidates for Confirmation. We understand that some of you may not be able

to attend this Mass due to the distance you live from the candidate, however, we suggest that you make your presence felt by a phone call, letter or email.

Your candidate will inform you of the Mass time which they have been assigned to celebrate their Confirmation. They will also inform you of any specific instructions regarding the practice as the year unfolds.

Below are some further suggestions about how you can fully live out your role as sponsor:

- Pray for your candidate. Post their photograph on your refrigerator (or other place you see regularly) to help you keep them in your prayers throughout the year.
- Arrange for a time to meet with your candidate. You might go for a walk, have lunch, or if you live a distance, email regularly. Ask how their preparation is going.
- Share a meal with the candidate and his/her family.
- Share with the candidate your own faith journey. What was “religion” like for you as a teen? How did you pray? What family or cultural religious practices were important to you?
- If you are the candidate’s godparent, talk to them about their Baptism. Pull out any photographs of the day. It’s likely that they have never heard (or seen) your version of the day.
- Attend the Call to Sacramental Preparation and Formation to be held at the 12:15 PM Mass on January 9.

**AND MOST IMPORTANTLY OF ALL...**

Try to attempt in every way to embody the Spirit of Jesus in your daily life.