



What is a Confirmation Sponsor?

Many people wonder what being a sponsor is all about. They are not sure they should be one. If that is you, it may help you to think of sponsoring a candidate in the simplest of terms. Being a sponsor means being a **companion**. Being a good sponsor means listening to and sharing your life and faith with your candidate. They trust you. They have chosen you. Now it is your turn to choose them. Being a sponsor does not mean having all the answers - or being the “perfect” Christian. The sponsor/candidate relationship is not a teacher/student relationship. Rather, it is two people discovering together the presence of God in the world, the faith community and in each other. To be the mature, Roman Catholic companion your candidate needs, it is important for you to pray, listen, witness, and model your faith.

A Sponsor Models Christian Living

The Church asks sponsors to be “active, practicing, fully initiated Roman Catholics”. This means you have received the sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation) – and you are doing your absolute best every day to live and love this great faith to the fullest. You do not need to have all the answers (none of us do!) ... you simply need to have the willingness and desire to accompany your candidate as together you seek them out.

If Christianity could be taught like any other subject, we would not need sponsors. The ongoing experience of living in Christ can only be handed on from person to person. Think of Christianity like the emotions felt at an exciting event (a ball game or party). It is alive and active, exists in moments and can only be shared between people.

To be a sponsor, or model, you are passing on values to the candidate. If a person changes their point of view or action, it is because they respect and admire someone who demonstrates a different point of view or action from their own. Witnessing our faith is everyone’s responsibility, but your candidate may look to you before others. They already do. They have chosen you as their sponsor.

As a witness to the Christian life, you also function as a bridge. It is your task to help your candidate know this faith and its people better - and help them better realize their baptismal call. The way you participate in your own faith will be your greatest gift to your candidate.

A Sponsor Prays

When we reflect on our lives in connection with Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, we pray. This kind of prayer allows the Holy Spirit to continue the conversion process begun in us at baptism. Prayer makes us sensitive to the presence of God in our ordinary day to day living. Failing to pray distances us from God and makes the possibility of living the Christian way of life more remote.

Your candidate will be looking to you as they strive to discover their own path of continual conversion. Sharing your prayer life will be an immense help. Now may be the time for you to discover for yourself the form of prayer best suited to you. Praying with scripture or practicing centering prayer may be the way you find best to come to know God.

A Sponsor Listens

One of the primary tasks of a sponsor is to help the candidate uncover their own story. That can only happen when we allow the candidate to speak and when we listen with reverence to what they have to say. They need to know we value them as a person and that we regard them as an authentic voice of Christ in our faith community. Good listening allows the kind of sharing to happen that helps people grow in self-understanding and confidence.

Sometimes it is hard for us to put our story aside and listen to another's. That may be the biggest challenge of being a sponsor, but it will also bring the greatest reward. We all have much to teach and much to learn. Listening is one of the best tools we have.

A Sponsor is Supported

The Parish Community of Espiritu Santo Catholic Church and School supports the sponsor/candidate relationship throughout the preparation process. It is vital that you feel connected to the community through worship and prayer. Know that you are so important and appreciated in the process. We will be walking with you as you share your faith with the candidate.

Thank you for sharing your faith with others!

If you have any questions along this journey, feel free to contact me.

*Many Blessings,
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