

EXCERPT TAKEN FROM THE DIOCESAN GUIDELINES
FOR CONFIRMATION

SPONSORS:

According to the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, the sponsor is "...a man or woman who knows the candidate, helps him, and witnesses to his morals, faith, and intention. It is his responsibility to show the catechumen in a friendly way the place of the Gospel in his own life and in society, to help him in doubts and anxieties, to give public testimony for him, and to watch over the progress of his baptismal life... His responsibility remains important when the neophyte has received the sacraments and needs to be helped to remain faithful to his baptismal promises." (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, #42, #43).

Ordinarily, each candidate for Confirmation will be accompanied by a sponsor. It is desirable, (though not mandatory), that one who undertook the role of sponsor at Baptism be sponsor for Confirmation. A sponsor may be male or female and must be at least sixteen (16) years of age. A sponsor must be a Catholic who is fully initiated - that is, he/she has received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist - and who is in good standing with the Catholic Church. A witness form, from your parish, is necessary to be a sponsor if you are not a member of Blessed Sacrament Parish.

The role of the sponsor is to be a "companion on the journey" with the candidate, to be friend and mentor, both during the process of preparation for the sacrament, and beyond. As such, he/she should be invited to be an active participant in the preparation process.

The sponsor is called through his/her own Baptism to be a disciple of the Lord Jesus. As a disciple, the sponsor offers to the candidate prayer, encouragement, support, and the witness of a life lived in response to the presence of the Lord Jesus.

The sponsor represents the parish community and the universal faith community in welcoming the candidate.