

Dear Confirmation Sponsor,

I hope this letter finds you well. Congratulations on being chosen as a Sponsor for the Sacrament of Confirmation. I am sure it was because of the witness of your Catholic Faith that the candidate has chosen you. What a special honor! Enclosed you will find a copy of the Requirements of a Sponsor. This will help you understand some of the responsibilities of this important role.

We hope that you will have a renewed appreciation of the importance of the Sacrament of Confirmation in your own life and in the life of the Christian community. There are a few requirements for a sponsor but only one simple duty: To help someone follow Christ. None of us accomplishes this on our own. Among its many gifts, Confirmation reminds us that we can only live the life of Christ by accepting the Spirit of Christ and letting the Spirit work in us, day by day. Sponsors are called to live the Christian life, being consciously aware that what they do and say affects others. The role you have been invited to accept is more than merely ceremonial, so a fundamental question should be asked: *"Will my own integrity allow me to stand at the Altar and make a public profession, so that the Faith expressed in words is also a Faith in practice in my daily life?"*

The role of a sponsor is not one of catechist or teacher, but more a ministry of presence, example and companionship on this journey. Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, the sponsor and candidate should spend time recognizing the activity of the Lord in their lives. As sponsor, you can help the candidate recognize God in their daily life and recognize God's call to improve his or her life. I suggest that you call often and ask your candidate questions. Ask what your candidate is learning. Find out what they are asked to do to prepare to celebrate Confirmation? What is the timeline of our parish's preparation process? Ask about what you, as a sponsor, are required to do. What are you, as a sponsor are *encouraged* to do?

Sponsors are required *to be present* at the following:

- † **Religious Education Symposium on November 9, 2019** from 9 am to 12:00 pm.
- † **One Confirmation Practice**
- † **Celebration of Confirmation**
- † Sponsors are required to obtain from their own parish, a **certificate or letter of eligibility to be a confirmation sponsor**. This certificate will need to have their parish seal affixed to it. You will need to visit your parish office to obtain this certificate, **no more than six months prior to Confirmation**. Make sure that this certificate has your candidate's name on it, and then mail it to Saint Mary Roman Catholic Church at the address listed on the cover page.

One of the expectations of the candidate is to complete three Acts of Mercy. The acts of mercy completed should be directly related to the Corporal and/or Spiritual Works of Mercy. Sponsors are encouraged to share in as many acts of mercy opportunities as possible. We recommend that the sponsor and candidate work on all acts of mercy together to help create a special bond throughout the year. Please use these as teaching moments for the candidate. We ask you to show them HOW and teach them WHY we do acts of mercy for others as we put our faith into action.

Remember, they chose you as their sponsor, which translates to selecting a very special person in their life. Acts of Mercy opportunities can be found anywhere you and the candidate choose. Although certainly not required, St. Mary's parish offers many different opportunities to take advantage of for you and the candidate. When it is not possible for you to do Acts of Mercy together, acts of mercy should be completed with their parents and then communicated back to you.

As a sponsor, you please talk to and connect with the candidate often throughout the year to discuss the candidate's progress. Many sponsors have not only grown closer to the candidates through their sharing but also learned regular sponsor-candidate interaction with a specific task or question, helps people make a faith connection. The connection you make could and hopefully will change the life of the candidate. God Bless you and all you will do this upcoming year.

God bless,



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