

Things to consider when choosing a Confirmation sponsor

You should read this assignment and discuss your choice of Sponsor with your parents.

Candidates for the sacrament of Confirmation have lots of work to do in preparation for the day when the church will officially recognize them as adults. The day a Catholic is confirmed is one of the most significant events in his or her life, and that significance is apparent in the various requirements candidates must fulfill before they can receive the sacrament.

One of the things a candidate must do is choose a sponsor. A Confirmation sponsor supports the candidate as they prepare to become full members of the church. It's an important role to play, and one no sponsor should take lightly. Choosing a sponsor is also a decision that candidates should take seriously.

Before beginning discernment, a process in which you are truly open to the Holy Spirit and making decisions based upon prayer and the will of God, say a prayer to the Holy Spirit asking for guidance.

The following are a few things candidates can consider when choosing a sponsor for their Confirmation candidacy.

Requirements

There are certain requirements with regard to just who can and cannot be a Confirmation sponsor.

- a sponsor must be at least 16 years of age.
- candidates cannot choose one of their parents or step parents to act as a sponsor. However, godparents or even siblings often do qualify as sponsors.
- A Confirmation sponsor must also be a confirmed member of the Catholic church.
- The sponsor must be a practicing Catholic who attends mass.
- Their marital status (if applicable) must conform to all laws, norms, and principles of the Roman Catholic Church (feel free to ask the DRE if you have any questions).

Location

Another thing to consider when choosing a Confirmation sponsor is where that potential sponsor lives. Once chosen, the sponsor will be asked to fulfill certain requirements, including attending an occasional meeting and the rehearsal, so it helps to choose a sponsor who lives nearby. It's not required that a sponsor live in the community, but it will make it easier on the sponsor you choose. There will be activities for you and your sponsor to complete together in the coming months.

Age

Though any confirmed, practicing Catholic over the age of 16 is eligible to be a Confirmation sponsor in most parishes, it might help to choose someone who is older than 16. A sponsor is supposed to be a role model for the candidate who can offer advice and guidance not only during your candidacy, but after you have been confirmed as well. Someone who is just a few years older than you might not be the best person to provide that advice and guidance.

Relationship

It might make things easier if the person you ultimately choose to be a sponsor is someone you already have a strong relationship with and find is easy to talk to. The relationship is one that should continue and strengthen after you have been confirmed, so choosing someone you already have a good rapport with will make it easier for the relationship to flourish. In addition, most people find it easier to ask questions or seek advice from someone they're personally close to, and you will likely have a few questions along the way to being confirmed.

Things to Avoid...

Do not choose a sponsor because it is easy or convenient. The choice should benefit you, not please your family or simply honor someone.

Write three potential sponsors here:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Pray for these people for the next week. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you in your choice of sponsor.

I HAVE SELECTED MY SPONSOR....WHAT DO I DO NOW?

Now that you have decided who to invite to be your sponsor and walk alongside you in your journey to Confirmation, it's time to ask them. You may do this by a simple phone call. Upon them saying yes, you will complete the sponsor form. Once I receive the form, I will send your chosen sponsor an official invitation and what it means to be a sponsor.