

## **EXPECTATIONS of SPONSORS**

Only one sponsor is required for Confirmation. The purpose of a sponsor is to be a Catholic faith role model for the candidate. According to church law (canon 874), the sponsor must be a practicing Catholic and meet the following eligibility requirements. The sponsor may be the Candidate's Baptismal godparent; in fact, such a relationship is desirable, thus emphasizing more clearly the connection between Baptism and Confirmation.

### **Requirements:**

- The sponsor must be a practicing Catholic who has been confirmed.
- Must have received the Most Holy Eucharist (Communion).
- Be at least 16 years of age on or before the date of Confirmation.
- Cannot be a parent of the person being confirmed.
- Must have the intention of nurturing the person in the Catholic Faith.
- If married, must be in a valid marriage recognized by the church. (See marriage validity section below.)
- Will present the candidate to the minister of Confirmation.
- Leads a life in harmony with the Catholic faith.

What constitutes a "Life in harmony with the Catholic faith" as selection criteria for a sponsor/godparent?

The following are a few examples to clarify what this means:

- a person who has a prayer life and worships regularly with their parish community;
- a person who treats and compensates his/her employees justly and fairly;
- a person who practices chastity in a dating, engaged or marital relationship;
- a person who steward their money or material treasures to their parish and/or a charity of their choice;
- a person who accepts and respects the dignity of other human beings regardless of race, ethnic origin, etc.
- in short, a person who is happy being Catholic, freely acknowledges it to others, is aware of God's mercy and endeavors to live Catholic, biblical values to their best of their ability.

### **Marriage Validity:**

Validity means two persons freely gave their consent (vows). That is, nothing stood in the way of the bond of marriage (such as addiction, previous marriage, immaturity, external pressure to marry, etc.) Further, Catholics are obliged to marry in the presence of a Catholic priest or deacon, or with the bishop's permission, in the presence of a Protestant minister.

As a sponsor you will help the candidate prepare for Confirmation. You will be given a Sponsor's Guide that goes along with the Chosen confirmation program. You will need to read and do the activities with your candidate.

Complete the attached Confirmation form by December 15 and return it to Melissa Baker, CRE.

