

# Characteristics of a Confirmation Sponsor

## --for the Candidate and the Sponsor

From the earliest days of the Church, specific people were chosen from the faith community to support those seeking full communion. Today, "It is desirable that [one of] the godparents at Baptism also be the sponsor at Confirmation in order to express more clearly the relationship between Baptism and Confirmation and to make the duty and function of the sponsor more effective." (Canon 34)

A sponsor needs to be willing and able to witness to the candidate's spiritual journey, to share his/her own journey with the candidate, and to challenge the candidate to explore and deepen their own personal faith.

A sponsor must be baptized, confirmed, and formally registered in a parish.

A sponsor is a companion on the Candidate's journey to Heaven, meets with the Candidate regularly, and talks and listens to the Candidate.

A sponsor is a model for committed Catholic living; living a life of daily prayer, regular Sunday worship (Mass), Christian service to others, and fulfilling the precepts of the Church.

A sponsor seeks to increase his/her own knowledge of the Catholic faith as well as that of the Candidate's.

A sponsor prays for and with the Candidate.

Additionally...

- the sponsor must be 16 years old or older
- the sponsor may not be the candidate's parent
- the sponsor may be male or female.

**A local sponsor is preferred** to ensure consistent involvement throughout the Confirmation preparation process. If the sponsor of choice lives in an area where s/he is unable to accompany the candidate to candidate/sponsor events, the family may choose a "local companion" to take his/her place. The local companion will need to keep the sponsor informed about the topics missed.