



Requirements to be a Sponsor for Confirmation

After Jesus rose from the dead on Easter Sunday, He appeared to His disciples and breathed on them saying: *Receive the Holy Spirit*. Having been confirmed in the Holy Spirit, those timid apostles went forth and shared the Good News with the world. That is the power of the Holy Spirit. As the number of disciples grew, people began to bring other members of their family, their friends, and their neighbors to the apostles who would lay their hands upon them and pray for the Spirit to come dwell within them. These were the first Confirmation sponsors.

Two millennia later, faithful disciples of Jesus and His Church continue to sponsor those to be confirmed in the Holy Spirit by the successors to the apostles. The role of sponsor is both an honor and challenge, for it can only be given to one who has a living faith in God and one who will continue to lead and inspire the one to be confirmed to live out their own faith with the help of the Holy Spirit. As such, Church law requires the following criteria be met to fulfill this role. A sponsor must:

- Be a practicing Catholic.
- Be at least 16 years of age.
- Have already been Baptized and Confirmed and received First Communion.
- Lead a mature life of faith. While this does not mean they have to be perfect, it does mean that they:
 - Believe in God and all that He has revealed to us and all that His Holy Catholic Church proposes for our belief.
 - Attend Mass weekly on Sundays and on Holy Days of Obligation.
 - [If married,] must be married according to the laws of the Catholic Church
 - Have a faith that is alive through works of charity
 - Strive to commit their entire self to God.

The following persons are not eligible to be sponsors (see canon 874):

- The father or mother of the person who will receive the sacrament.
- One who does not practice the Catholic faith on a regular basis.
- One who does not accept the authority of the Church.
- One who does not accept all the teachings of the Church on faith and morals.
- One whose current marital status/situation does not conform to the laws and morals of the Catholic Church (for example: if married, then married within the Church; if single, not living with a romantic partner).

Catholic Sponsor's Statement of Faith

I, _____, affirm on my honor before God that I meet the above requirements to be a sponsor for the Sacrament of Confirmation. I believe in God and all that He has revealed to us, and all that the Catholic Church proposes for our belief. I strive to commit my entire self to God and to seek to know and do God's will. I seek to keep my faith alive through works of charity and obedience to God's commandments.

I recognize that as a sacramental sponsor for

I must be a living example of faith. I express my faith by loving God and my neighbor, through private prayer and weekly worship with God's people at Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation, by regularly receiving the Eucharist, by regular celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, by accepting and living the teachings of the Catholic Church on faith and morals, and by giving good example.

I affirm that I am a baptized and confirmed Catholic, at least 16 years of age; I am a registered member of

_____ parish;

[if married,] I have a marriage that is canonically valid and recognized by the Catholic Church; I actively support my parish with my gifts and talents and treasure (according to my means); and that all the above statements are true.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Please present this form to the parish office to receive a Sponsorship Letter from the Parish.