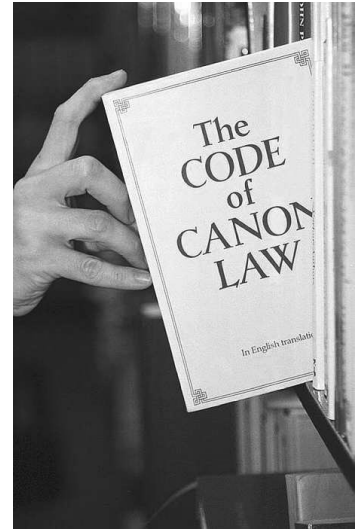


A Guide to Choosing a Confirmation Sponsor

CANON LAW STIPULATIONS

Canon Law, the law of the Church, provides us with some guidance in choosing a sponsor. Can. 874 §1. To be permitted to take on the function of sponsor a person must:

1. be designated by the one to be baptized, by the parents or the person who takes their place, or in their absence by the pastor or minister and have the aptitude and intention of fulfilling this function;
2. have completed the sixteenth year of age, unless the diocesan bishop has established another age, or the pastor or minister has granted an exception for a just cause;
3. be a Catholic who has been confirmed and has already received the most holy sacrament of the Eucharist and who leads a life of faith in keeping with the function to be taken on;
4. not be bound by any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared;
5. not be the father or mother of the one to be baptized.



According to the Code of Canon Law (892), “The sponsor is to take care that the confirmed person behaves as a true witness of Christ and faithfully fulfills the obligations inherent in this sacrament.”

The Church states that it is desirable that the sponsor would be one of the person’s godparents; however, this is not a requirement (893, §2).

EXPECTATIONS FROM FR. DARREL

The sponsor cannot be a brother, sister, aunt, uncle, or grandparent without specific permission from Fr. Darrel. Please complete these forms for your requested sponsor, then contact the Parish Office to schedule a meeting with Father. The candidate and his/her parent are expected to attend this meeting.

LIFE OF FAITH IN KEEPING WITH THE FUNCTION BEING TAKEN ON

This canon (874, §1, 1) also states that the sponsor must lead “a life of faith in keeping with the function to be taken on.” Therefore, the following persons are not eligible to act as a sponsor:

- Persons married outside the Catholic Church
- Persons who miss Sunday Mass and Holydays of Obligation and/or consider Sunday Mass and Holy days of Obligation optional
- Persons cohabiting without the benefit and grace of Catholic marriage
- Persons who neglect the religious education of their children
- Individuals who neglect to fulfill their “Easter Duty” that is, Communion at least once a year during the Easter season and Confession once a year if in the state of mortal sin
- Those who give public scandal in any way

ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES AND SUGGESTIONS

While Canon Law gives us some clear direction in choosing a sponsor, it does not tell us the type of person who will be right for you. It is for this reason that your choice of sponsor is perhaps the most important decision you will make. It will be your sponsor, more than any other person, who will help you prepare for your Confirmation. Because of this we offer the following suggestions in addition to those found in Canon law:

- Choose a person with whom you are comfortable, someone you can talk with and who will listen without passing judgment.
- Choose a person you can trust, someone you do not have to be on guard with out of fear of what they may think, say or do with what you choose to share with them.
- Choose a person who is capable of being in a supportive, nurturing relationship with you, someone whom you can communicate with on a regular basis about your faith journey.
- Choose a person you admire who is visibly a person of faith: someone who lives what they profess and is not afraid to share their relationship with God and the Church with you.
- Choose a person who will not be afraid to challenge you to be faithful to your commitments and will encourage you to grow.
- Choose a person who can and will make a commitment to you and the program into which you are about to enter.
- Consider asking one of your God Parents because the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation are so closely connected, Church teaching states that it is “desirable that the godparent at Baptism also be the sponsor at Confirmation”.
- After you receive the Sacrament of Confirmation your relationship with your sponsor DOES NOT END! You both are called to lead each other closer to God, to continue to grow in knowledge of your faith, and to challenge one another to lead lives of holiness and service.

PITFALLS TO AVOID

- Avoid making a hasty decision.
- Avoid choosing someone who isn't close by and who will need someone to “fill-in” for them. No matter how good your or their intentions, they will not be able to be there for you as they should.
- Avoid choosing a relative or friend out of a sense of obligation.

***Choosing a sponsor is no small matter.
It will take time and consideration.
Talk it over with your parents. Pray about it.
The choice is yours to make.
As a parish, we are ready to help in whatever way we can.***

Choosing a Confirmation Sponsor Reflection Worksheet

Take a few minutes to ask the Holy Spirit to guide you in choosing a Confirmation Sponsor. Remember, they must follow the rules listed on the other page of this handout. Be specific in your answers. Take this decision to heart and allow the Holy Spirit to guide you in this process.

Names of people who might be a good Confirmation Sponsor:

- 1) _____ 2) _____
3) _____ 4) _____

What Catholic faith qualities do I admire about each person listed above?

- 1) _____
2) _____
3) _____
4) _____

Why would each person be a good sponsor and support person in my adult faith journey?

- 1) _____
2) _____
3) _____
4) _____

How do I see each person sharing their faith with others (in action and in words?)

- 1) _____
2) _____
3) _____
4) _____

With which of these people would I feel comfortable discussing my faith journey (my doubts and fears, my hopes and joys, admitting when I'm struggling in faith)? Who can I be most honest and vulnerable with?

- 1) _____ 2) _____
3) _____ 4) _____

With which of these people would be able to attend Mass with me and participate in my Confirmation Preparation this year (including attending one retreat with me)?

1) _____ 2) _____

3) _____ 4) _____

With which of these people would be most likely to continue having a faith-based relationship with me *after* I am confirmed?

1) _____ 2) _____

3) _____ 4) _____

Before making your final selection, take time to talk to your potential sponsors about their faith journey:

- a) Do you remember your Confirmation and preparation for the sacrament? Describe it.
- b) What is your relationship with Jesus like?
- c) What are your gifts and how do you use them to do ministry in the Catholic Church?
- d) What is your prayer life like?
- e) What do you love the most about the Catholic faith?

Once you have chosen your desired sponsor, have another conversation with them:

- a) Are you available to disciple me and share in my Confirmation preparation journey with me throughout the year, including attending one retreat?
- b) Are you available to attend Mass with me regularly?
- c) Are you willing to commit to walking in the faith with me after Confirmation?
- d) What ways do you see us continuing my faith formation together?

Final Selection

Once you have chosen your sponsor and your sponsor has accepted, please complete the below information and return this sheet to the Parish Office or during Confirmation Preparation Class.

Deadline for sponsor selection is **DECEMBER 22**.

Sponsor Name: _____

Relationship to Candidate: _____

Sponsor Phone: _____

Sponsor Email: _____

Sponsor Home Parish: _____