



# Choosing a Confirmation Sponsor

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## **Why a Sponsor?**

From the earliest days of the Church, those seeking communion with the Church were supported by specific people chosen from the community. At your Baptism, those significant people were your parents and godparents who promised that you would be raised in the faith. They professed *their* faith because you could not speak for yourself. Your parents accepted the responsibility of raising you and being the primary educators of your faith. Your godparents promised to help your parents. In Confirmation you will speak for yourself and will renew your baptismal promises. Your chosen sponsor will stand with you, will support you, and present you to the bishop for Confirmation.

## **Choosing a Sponsor**

The Church encourages you to choose one of your baptismal godparents (if possible) to be your sponsor for Confirmation because this expresses more clearly the link between your Baptism and Confirmation. Whether this is or is not possible, your Sponsor should be:

- At least 16 years of age;
- Fully initiated in the Catholic Church (Baptized, Confirmed, Holy Communion);
- Has been close enough to you to have been supportive of your life so far;
- If married, marriage must be formally recognized by the Catholic Church;
- Is not the spouse or fiancé of the intended participant;
- Lives a good Catholic life – participating in the Eucharistic celebration every Sunday.

## **Role of a Sponsor**

The person you ask to be your sponsor should know you well enough to be able to testify by his or her presence before the community, that you are someone who wishes to be fully initiated into the church as a believing, practicing Catholic; that you are one who takes part faithfully in the church's worship, witness, and mission. When you are anointed with the chrism oil during Confirmation your sponsor will be beside you with a hand placed on your shoulder. This is a sign of your spiritual relationship.

Be sure that your sponsor can attend any special sessions for the Rite of Confirmation your parish provides but especially for the celebration of the sacrament.