

A Bit of History About Your Role as Confirmation Sponsor

YOU HAVE BEEN CHOSEN!

"... Confirmed by the gift of the Spirit,
that they give witness to Christ by lives
built on faith and love..."

~General Intercession from the Rite of Confirmation

You might be wondering how the Church's practice of using Confirmation sponsors came about...

Your role as a sponsor can be traced back to the times of the early church. Through the centuries, however, the function of the sponsor has changed.

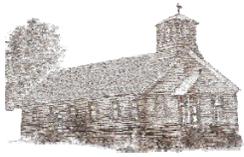
Originally the sponsor played a key role in a person's conversion to Christianity. In times of Christian persecution, when faith and conversion had to be kept secret, the "sponsor" who was known to be a person of faith, spoke on behalf of the candidate and attested to the person's knowledge of and commitment to the faith. The sponsor was promising that they know that the candidate was indeed sincere in his or her desire to become a Christian.

The Sponsor also helped the candidate develop a prayer life and lead them to a life of service and ministry to the community. In this way, the sponsor was linked to the candidate for life. There was a clear understanding that the person continually develops and grows as a Christian.

At the Baptism/ Confirmation ceremony, usually held at the Easter Vigil, the sponsor would present the candidate to the community, announce that the candidate was ready to be converted, stand at the candidates side and receive the Eucharist him him/her.

By the fifth century, the understanding of the rites of Baptism and Confirmation changed. These sacraments were now celebrated as two distinct sacraments, and so the role of the sponsor became less focal. As a natural outcome the sponsors for Baptism and Confirmation were two different persons.

Through the years, the role has changed but one fact has not changed. The Confirmation Sponsor is still a person of strong faith, and lives a life that shows a devotion to Jesus' teachings. Through example and in interaction, the sponsor can help guide the candidate to grow in their faith, and make a commitment to keep God central in their lives. As a friend, role model and helper, the sponsor can guide the candidate on a life-long journey of faith.



St. Ann's Religious Education Center
125 Richardson Avenue
Shohola, PA 18458

Confirmation Sponsor Information

Candidate's Name: _____

Sponsor's Name: _____

Sponsor's Address: _____

Sponsor's Phone Number: _____

Sponsor's Address: _____

I accept the role of sponsor for the Confirmation Candidate. I promise to participate in the candidate's preparation, to continue living my Catholic faith, to be of support to the candidate and to remember the candidate in my prayers.

Sponsor's Signature: _____

Please attach a verification letter from your home parish, stating that you are a member of that parish and a practicing Catholic qualified to act as a sponsor for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Mail both forms to the address above.

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