

## ARCHDIOCESE OF CINCINNATI GUIDELINES & QUALIFICATIONS FOR SPONSORS

The church takes seriously the role of a sponsor for the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. Asking a friend or family member to sponsor a child is an honor and carries some responsibility! It is more than just a kind, family gesture...the candidate is asking the chosen sponsor to pray for his/her soul and to keep watch of his/her spiritual journey in life.

### ROLE OF THE CONFIRMATION SPONSOR

Specifically for Confirmation, Canon 892 states that the role of the sponsor is ***“to see that the confirmed person acts as a true witness to Christ and faithfully fulfills the obligations connected with this sacrament.”***

When choosing a Godparent for Baptism, the role of the Godparent was for the same reason — a Catholic relative or friend is chosen with hopes that he/she will always pray for the spiritual well-being of their child. It is therefore fitting that the Baptismal sponsor also be the child’s Confirmation sponsor. However, there may be many reasons that your child’s Godparent cannot fulfill this role at this time. Candidates for the sacrament of Confirmation should then choose a confirmed, practicing Catholic whom he or she admires and who bears witness to the Gospel in everyday life.

***....sponsors bring the candidates to receive the sacrament, present them to the minister for anointing, and will later help them to fulfill their baptismal promises faithfully under the influence of the Holy Spirit whom they have received.*** (The Rite of Confirmation #5)

### QUALIFICATIONS

According to Canon 874, the following are ***qualifications needed*** to be a Confirmation ***sponsor***:

- a. The sponsor must be at least sixteen years of age.
- b. The sponsor must be a Catholic who has received Confirmation and is practicing the faith.
- c. The sponsor must not be bound by any canonical penalty (e.g., May not be divorced and remarried without an annulment).
- d. The sponsor may not be the father or mother of the one to be confirmed.

If the sponsor cannot actually be present for the Rite of Confirmation on the 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2014, then paper work must be submitted that names a proxy. The sponsor’s name is still officially in the records. Please call Mrs. Lewis if you cannot be present that day—937.382.1596.

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