Confirmation Sponsor Information Sheet

Please fill out this form completely (leaving nothing blank) and return it during the **December Confirmation sessions**. Your sponsor is invited to attend the Spring retreat with you, and needs to be present at the Confirmation Rehearsal. Please read the following paragraph carefully:

The primary job of a sponsor is to be a witness to you of the Catholic life. The sponsor's way of life should provide you with an example of how a Christian is to live. The sponsor should support the candidate during the preparation period by talking with him or her about their Confirmation classes and service work. If sponsors would like to help with any of these classes or service work, they would be more than welcome to do so. If the sponsor lives too far away, they should keep in touch with you by phone or email. The sponsor acts as a spokesperson for the entire Church, in presenting you to the Bishop, will state that they feel you are ready, not only to celebrate the Sacrament, but also to live a Christian life. The sponsor should continue to support you in your Catholic faith in the years ahead.

CANDIDATE NAME (your name) _____

CANDIDATE'S CONFIRMATION PATRON SAINT _____

*(**Note:** There has been a long-standing tradition in the Catholic Church of choosing a "new" name for Confirmation. Candidates who wish to choose a new name should select one from a person in the Bible or from one of the saints. Sponsors can help the candidates by telling them about their favorite saints. Students may also check out books from the Religious Education Office on the lives of the saints or use the websites suggested by the Confirmation teachers.)*

SPONSOR'S NAME _____
(First) (Last)

SPONSOR'S RELATION TO CANDIDATE (friend, aunt, uncle, etc.) _____

SPONSOR'S COMPLETE ADDRESS (including city and zip code) _____

_____

SPONSOR'S PHONE # _____

SPONSOR'S PARISH _____

*(**Note:** A letter from their parish attesting to their good standing with, and full initiation into, the Church is necessary for all sponsors not registered at St. André Bessette Parish.)*

Yes____ No____ I am a faithful member of the Catholic Church who is an active participant in the Mass, attends every Sunday and receives the Sacraments often.

Yes____ No____ I have already celebrated the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.

Yes____ No____ I am in good standing with the Church and free to celebrate the Sacraments (for example, I have not remarried outside the Church)

Yes____ No____ I am NOT this child's father or mother and I am at least 16 years of age.

Sponsor's Signature: Date:

_____

Being a Faithful Godparent or Sponsor

The primary job of a godparent or sponsor is to be a witness of the Catholic life. Your way of life should provide an example of how a Christian is to live. You should support your charge during their preparation period by your prayers and presence, and for the rest of that person's life. You act as a spokesperson for the entire Church.

TO BE A GODPARENT OR SPONSOR YOU MUST MEET THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

1. The godparent or sponsor should be a faithful member of the Catholic Church who is an active participant in the Mass, attends every Sunday, and receives the Sacraments often.
2. The godparent or sponsor must have already celebrated the Sacraments of Initiation – Baptism, Eucharist, Penance, and Confirmation.
3. The godparent or sponsor must be in good standing with the Church and free to celebrate the Sacraments (for example, a person who has remarried outside the Church cannot serve in this capacity).
4. According to the directives in the Code of Canon Law #893, neither the father nor the mother of a candidate can be a godparent or sponsor. The godparent or sponsor must be at least 16 years of age.

Some Practical Suggestions for Godparents & Sponsors

- Above all, pray daily for the person for who are to be a godparent or sponsor.
- Have every intention to diligently make this person a part of your life, from infancy if your relationship began then, or from whatever point you entered the person's life, until you responsibility ends at your death.
- Extend an invitation to attend Mass or other parish activities/ministries with you. As you are able, introduce the person to other faithful Catholics.
- Extend an invitation to attend a Catholic Baptism, wedding, funeral, parish reconciliation service, or other liturgical event with you. Allow a little time to talk about the experience to form them to love the liturgy.
- Share some good Catholic resources (books, magazines, tapes), or go to a Catholic bookstore together.
- Suggest having a casual lunch or coffee or dessert together on a regular basis, as you are able.
- Send them cards on the anniversary of their reception of the Sacraments, with meaningful words from you.
- Be creative...

ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM, 4TH CENTURY BISHOP OF CONSTANTINOPLE

"They should not consider that what they are doing is a routine action. Rather, they should be fully aware that they will share the credit if they guide their charges to the path of virtue by their advice, but if they are negligent, then grave condemnation will fall upon them. For this reason it is the custom to call them 'spiritual fathers' in order that they may learn from their office the affection they owe to their charges in giving them spiritual instruction. For if it is a noble thing to lead those who are in no way connected with us to desire virtue, we have a much greater duty to fulfill this obligation to one whom we have received to the position of spiritual son.

QUALITIES OF A GODPARENT/SPONSOR

- Love for God and His Church.
- Sense of the mystery of salvation.
- Committed prayer life.
- Basic understanding of Scripture.
- Faithful to the Magisterium.
- Bear personal witness to the Catholic faith.
- Fruits of the Spirit are evident.
- Good communication and listening skills.

DUTIES OF A GODPARENT/SPONSOR

- Become familiar with the process through which the Sacraments will be given.
- Continue your formation as a Catholic.
- Maintain meaningful personal contact with the person for the rest of your life.