

The Role and Responsibilities of a Confirmation Sponsor

The role of a Confirmation sponsor roughly parallels the role of a godparent who accompanies a catechumen through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). The RCIA describes the godparent's role in this way:

It is the responsibility of godparents to show the candidates how to practice the Gospel in personal and social life, to sustain the candidates in moments of hesitancy and anxiety, to bear witness, and to guide the candidates' progress. . . . (*Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*, number 11)

The Role of the Sponsor

- a model of how a person of faith lives in today's world
- a companion on the journey of faith
- a friend or relative who knows the candidate and can witness to the maturing faith of the candidate before the community
- a guide, a confidant, and a listener
- a learner who is interested in personal growth as she or he walks the faith journey with the candidate
- one who will continue after Confirmation to walk the faith journey with the candidate and invite her or him into fuller participation in parish life and service

The Responsibilities of the Sponsor

The Rite of Confirmation (number 5) says the sponsor has three main responsibilities:

- to bring the candidate for the Sacrament
- to present the candidate to the minister for anointing
- to later help the candidate to fulfill his or her Baptismal Promises faithfully under the influence of the Holy Spirit

(The excerpt on this handout is from the English translation, original texts, additional notes and arrangement of the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*, © 1985, ICEL, number 11, in *The Rites of the Catholic Church*, volume one, prepared by the International Commission on English in the Liturgy [ICEL], a Joint Commission of Catholic Bishops' Conference [Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 1990], pages 39–40. Copyright © 1990 by the Order of St. Benedict, Collegeville, MN. All rights reserved. Used with permission of the ICEL.)

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