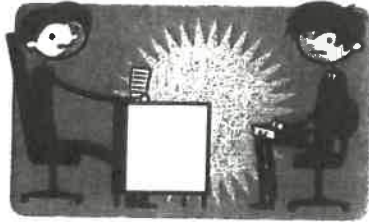


Walking Together #1: Interviewing Your Confirmation Sponsor



Now that you have chosen your sponsor, it is time to spend a little more time with him/her to really get to know more about his/her faith journey. After all, the life-long role of your sponsor is to walk with you and support you on your own faith journey! You may find that you already know a lot or that there is a lot that you can learn!

Sometime during March, please set up a time to meet with your sponsor to “interview” him/her. It would be best to meet with your sponsor in person, but if this is not possible, because your sponsor lives out of town, you can interview your sponsor by phone or by email (last resort!) You can meet at your house or your sponsor’s house; you could meet for breakfast, lunch, or dinner; you could go for a walk together. BE CREATIVE!

You should plan to meet with your sponsor for at least one hour for this meeting. But feel free to meet for as long as you would like or multiple times!

Although you will be asking your sponsor questions in the format of an interview, your meeting should really be a discussion, with you adding your own insights and thoughts to the conversation. **AND YOU NEED TO INVITE YOUR SPONSOR TO ASK YOU SOME QUESTIONS TOO!** (Your sponsor can ask you questions from the list on the next page or he/she can ask some of his/her own.) You are also welcome to ask your sponsor a question that is not included in the list! The questions are there to guide your discussion. You do not need to get through all of the questions, but feel free to do so!

- ✦ Start your meeting by praying together!
- ✦ At the end of your meeting, write your name and the date at the top of page 4. Write your sponsor’s name and then have your sponsor sign it.
- ✦ You will need to write short answers to the reflection questions on page 4 sometime after meeting with your sponsor (NOT while you are meeting with your sponsor).

YOU WILL TURN IN PAGE 4 OF THIS PACKET ON

~~MARCH 31 OR APRIL 1~~ AT OUR CONFIRMATION WORKSHOP DECEMBER 18



Twenty Questions to Ask Your Confirmation Sponsor

1. How did you become Catholic? Were you baptized when you were a baby or did you become Catholic as an adult through the RCIA program? Tell me about how you first learned about your faith, whether you were a child or an adult.
2. As a Catholic, what makes you different from other Christians?
3. How do you picture the Holy Spirit? What images come to mind? When or how have you experienced the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life?
4. What name did you choose for your Confirmation name and why?
5. Do you have a favorite saint (or favorite saints)? Why is he/she your favorite? What is there about his/her life that has helped you on your faith journey?
6. How do you define the word "holy"? Do you know people in your life that you would describe as "holy"? Do you think anyone describes you as "holy"? How does that make you feel? What challenges do you face when you are trying to live a life of holiness?
7. Tell me about an experience in your life when it was difficult for you to be Catholic—perhaps a time when you were ridiculed because of your faith or a time when you struggled to believe in the teachings of your Catholic faith. What did you do to "keep your faith" or find answers to your questions during these times.
8. In what ways do you feel that celebrating the Eucharist (the Mass) every week (or maybe every day) strengthens and nourishes you to live as a Catholic? Did you ever have a time when you did not like going to Mass? Do you like going to Mass now? What do you think caused the change?
9. What is your understanding of what it means "to sin"? What does "forgiveness" mean to you? What do you do when you find it very difficult to forgive someone who has hurt you? What do you do when you need to ask forgiveness from someone you have hurt?
10. One very special aspect of our Catholic faith is the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Tell me about your own feelings and thoughts about and experiences with this Sacrament. Is it difficult for you to celebrate this Sacrament or was there a time when it was? What kind of preparations do you find helpful before you celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation?

11. How do you pray? Do you have a favorite place to pray or a favorite time to pray? Do you ever find it difficult to pray? When you pray, who do you usually pray to: God, Jesus, The Holy Spirit, Mary, a particular saint? Who or what do you usually pray for?
12. Do you regularly participate in service projects or volunteer opportunities at your parish, work, or in your neighborhood? Describe what you do and how it impacts your life.
13. How would you answer someone who told you that "Catholics worship Mary"? Who do you turn to or what resources do you use when you find that you do not know an answer to a question about your faith?
14. Have you ever had a time in your life when you really felt close to God? Tell me about it.
15. Have you ever had a time in your life when you really struggled to believe in God. Tell me about it and how you kept your faith in the end.
16. Who has been a good role model for you to live according to your Catholic faith? What has he/she taught you or shown you? How has he/she deepened your faith?
17. In what ways do you think you still need to grow in your Catholic faith?
18. What is your favorite Scripture passage, verse or story? Tell me why.
19. Through the Sacrament of Confirmation, the gifts we first received at our Baptism:

Wisdom	Understanding
Right Judgment (Counsel)	Courage (Fortitude)
Knowledge	Reverence (Piety)
Wonder and Awe (Fear of the Lord)	

 are strengthened and increased within each of us. These seven special gifts represent all of the gifts and blessings that God gives us to lead a good and holy life. They are special graces that are given to us through the Holy Spirit to enable us to respond to God's call to holiness.
 Reflecting back on your life experiences and decisions, which gifts have you used a lot? Which gift do you need to use more?
20. What do you think is one of the greatest challenges to being Catholic? What is the best thing about being Catholic?

***Don't forget to ask any of your own questions!
AND REMEMBER- Your sponsor should ask you a few too!***

*This form must be completed and turned in on 12/18
~~March 28th or April 1st at our Confirmation Workshop.~~*

Confirmation Candidate's Name: _____
(Please print first and last name)

Date Sponsor Meeting #1 Occurred: ____ / ____ / ____

Sponsor's Name: _____

Sponsor's Signature: _____

*** If the interview took place by phone or email, parent may sign for sponsor.**

DIRECTIONS:

Sometime after meeting with your sponsor, take a few minutes to reflect on your discussion and write brief answers to questions 1 and 2. Please take the time to answer question 3, but you do not need to write anything!

1. What was one thing that you learned about your sponsor during your meeting?

2. Write about one story or experience that your sponsor shared that you felt showed that he/she was truly strengthened by the Holy Spirit through Confirmation to live a life of holiness.

3. Did you make a good choice of who you asked to serve as your Confirmation sponsor? If you are not sure if you did, pray about it, talk to your parents, and feel free to talk to Amy about your decision and where to go from here.

SPONSOR FORM for the SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

I, _____, have been asked to be a Confirmation sponsor for _____, who is to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at Sacred Heart Parish in Lebanon, NH on _____.

As a CONFIRMATION SPONSOR I affirm that (please circle YES or NO):

- *I have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist in the Roman Catholic Church.* YES NO
- *I will be at least sixteen years of age on the day of the Confirmation.* YES NO
- *I participate regularly in Sunday Mass and receive Holy Communion as a practicing Roman Catholic.* YES NO
- *I actively strive to live out my commitment to Christ and to the communal life of the Church by my loving response to those with whom I come in contact daily.* YES NO
- *I fulfill my obligations to my parish to the best of my ability in support of the Gospel message. My current marital status conforms to all laws, norms, and principles of the Roman Catholic Church.* YES NO

Full Legal Name of Sponsor (please print): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail address: _____

My relationship (cannot be a parent) to the candidate is: _____

My present parish/church, _____, is located in _____.

I promise to give my support to the confirmation candidate by my prayers, my continued interest in his/her growth as a Catholic, and by the Christian example of my daily life. I do hereby solemnly declare that I fulfill all the above requirements to act as a Confirmation sponsor.

Signature of sponsor Date

I will be able to attend the Confirmation _____ My candidate may need a proxy sponsor _____

TO BE COMPLETED BY PASTOR OF CONFIRMATION SPONSOR:

I certify to the best of my knowledge that the information above is correct.

Signature of Catholic Pastor (Parish Seal) Date

The Role of a Sponsor

You have the honor of being chosen as witness to the candidates' initiation into full Christian life. Through this sacrament, the candidate is strengthened by the power of the Holy Spirit, made a true witness of Christ in word and deed, and invited more deeply into the life of the Church. Your most significant role in relation to him/her is to be a role model of such witness and unifying love.

Some ways in which you can nurture this spiritual relationship all through life are;

- ✧ Celebrate the anniversary of their Baptism with a visit, call or card.*
- ✧ Listen to and share in the candidates' maturing struggles and triumphs in living a Christian life and keep yourself informed on Christian doctrine and values to be able to answer questions when they arise.*
- ✧ Encourage a maturing life of faith through special cards, letters, or gifts which celebrate holy events...Christmas, Easter...and personal growth events...graduations, first job, engagement. (Gift suggestions: a Bible, rosary, spiritual book, religious jewelry.)*
- ✧ Most importantly, become a model of Christian living for the person you have sponsored, through daily prayer, virtue and active participation in parish life and liturgy.*

By living a Christian life in partnership with the one whom you have sponsored for full church membership, both of you will experience a great joy of sharing life of faith.

May God bless you!