

SPONSOR GUIDE

Thank you for serving as a sponsor to our St. Thomas More youth!

You will need to attend two sponsor sessions (Sundays-Oct. 23rd and Dec. 4th), the Confirmation Mass Rehearsal and the Confirmation Mass. The dates for the rehearsal and Mass are TBA, but the possible dates can be found on the Confirmation schedule. The registration deadline for sponsors is Oct. 23rd. You can register online at www.stmp.org/87. Recently printed copies of sponsor Baptismal certificates with notations showing First Communion and Confirmation must be received by the Youth Ministry Office by Oct. 30th. It can take a while for parishes to process and send these certificates, especially if the Baptismal parish is out-of-state or country, so making the request ASAP is advised. Any questions regarding this requirement should be addressed to the Youth Minister.

As a Confirmation sponsor, you have some very important and specific functions! The Church describes them as the following:

- Developing a faith relationship with the candidate.
- Accompanying the candidate, if possible, to special liturgies.
- Standing with the candidate before the bishop and the community helping the candidate live as a follower of Jesus.

Some of the following suggestions will not be possible if you live away from the area, but be creative and think of ways to be in contact with the candidate.

- Arrange opportunities to spend time with the candidate and to enjoy being together. Some of these times can relate directly to the Confirmation program.
- Discuss with the candidate the efforts, progress and problems experienced in preparing for the reception of Confirmation. Help them to study the basic faith concepts and discuss their class work. See if there are any questions or concerns.
- Perhaps you can help the candidate choose service projects. You might even be able to help carry one out.
- Offer suggestions and encouragement, as they are needed.
- Arrange some time to pray together, or to read a passage from Scripture together. If you live close by, make plans to participate in the Mass together.
- Keep in contact with your candidate in-person or on the telephone and by e-mail.

Take time for yourself. Put aside some time for thinking and praying. Sponsors can begin to see how they can improve the quality of their ministry. There are many ways to go about this. One could spend time alone quietly reflecting, take up a journal, write reflections, or talk things over with a friend.

It also helps to talk things over with the candidate. You might ask yourself:

- What did my candidate teach me about my faith this week?
- What did I learn about myself this week?
- What can I do to encourage my candidate in his/her faith life?
- What do I want to especially pray for this week?

We pray that your role as a sponsor will be an enriching one.

SPONSOR'S PRAYER

**God of all ages,
You send out Your Spirit to
touch the hearts of all people,
so that they may believe in You
and in Jesus whom You sent.**

**Look kindly on all candidates for Confirmation
as they listen to Your voice.
Open their hearts to Your Spirit and
bring to fulfillment the good work
that You have begun in them.**

**As I reach out to my candidate,
make me an instrument of Your
love.**

**Teach me to reverence what is holy in others,
and to be patient with what I do not understand.
Deepen my faith in the Gospel and help
me to pass it on by my example.**

**With those who are hesitant or afraid,
let me be a source of encouragement;
and with those who are weak,
let me be a pillar of strength.**

**I humbly accept the ministry of sponsor
and pray that You will continue to guide
me and sustain me.**

We praise you through Christ our Lord.

Amen.