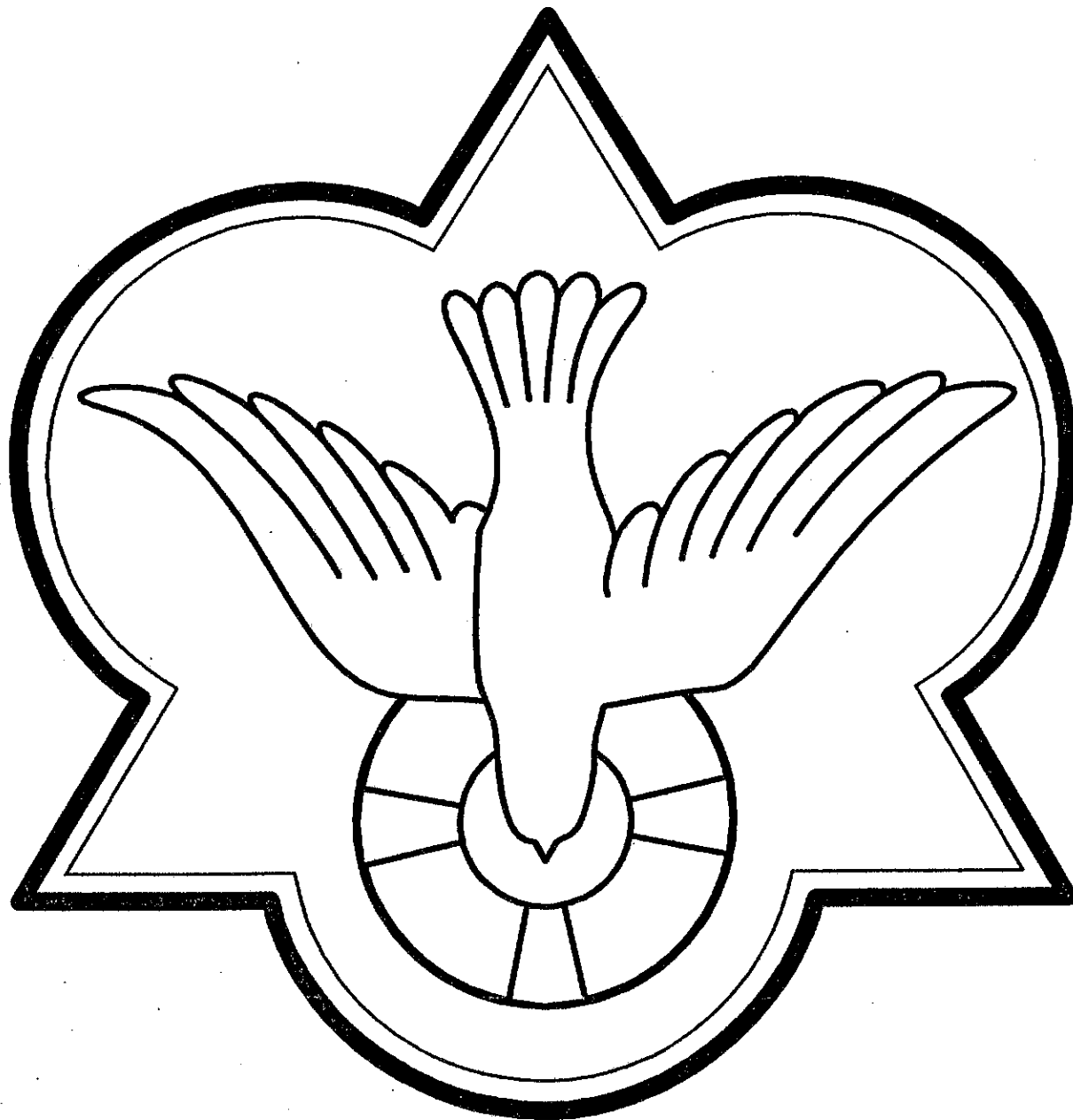


Confirmation Sponsor

*A Guide to
Sharing Your Commitment
to the Catholic Faith*



SPONSOR'S PRAYER



GOD OF ALL AGES,
YOU SEND OUT YOUR SPIRIT
TO TOUCH THE HEARTS OF
PEOPLE SO THAT THEY MAY
BELIEVE IN YOU AND IN JESUS
WHOM YOU SENT.

LOOK KINDLY ON ALL THE
CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES
AS THEY LISTEN TO OUR VOICE.
OPEN THEIR HEARTS TO YOUR
SPIRIT. AND BRING TO
FULFILLMENT THE GOOD WORK
YOU HAVE BEGUN IN THEM.

AS I REACH OUT TO GUIDE THEM
INTO FULL MEMBERSHIP IN THE
CHURCH MAKE ME AN
INSTRUMENT OF YOUR LOVE.
TEACH ME TO REVERE WHAT IS
HOLY IN OTHERS, AND HELP ME
TO PASS IT ON BY GOOD
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 IN THIS
IMPORTANT ROLE.

WE PRAISE YOU THROUGH
CHRIST OUR LORD.

AMEN

SPECIFIC DUTIES AND OBLIGATIONS OF CATHOLICS

1. Keep holy the day of the Lord's Resurrection: to worship God by participating in Mass every Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation; to avoid those activities that would hinder renewal of soul and body, e.g., needless work and business activities, unnecessary shopping, etc.
2. To lead a sacramental life. In part this means to receive Holy Communion frequently and the Sacrament of Reconciliation regularly: minimally, to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation at least once a year (annual confession is obligatory only if serious sin is involved); minimally, to receive Holy Communion at least once a year, between the First Sunday of Lent and Trinity Sunday. Most importantly, to live a sacramental life is to live a life that is itself a sign of God's presence on earth, and helps others to experience this presence.
3. To study Catholic teaching in preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation, to be confirmed, and then to continue to study and advance the cause of Christ.
4. To observe the marriage laws of the Church: to give religious training (by example and word) to one's children; to use parish schools and religious education programs.
5. To strengthen and support the Church: one's own parish community and parish priests; the worldwide Church and the Holy Father.
6. To do penance, including abstaining from meat and fasting from food on the appointed days.
7. To join in the missionary spirit and apostolate of the Church, always reaching out to the needy and oppressed in every way that is possible for you.

SPONSOR RESPONSIBILITIES

1. You are asked to meet at least once each month with your candidate from now until Palm Sunday. Please record the meeting times and dates on the form which is included.
2. Meetings can be: attending mass together, discussing confirmation classes, praying, going to a Reconciliation service, or reading Scripture together. The 7 Gifts of the Holy Spirit need to be discussed during some of these meetings. Worksheets for these 7 Gifts are included.
3. Please complete the "Letter of Recommendation" and give it to your candidate to bring to their interview toward the end of this preparation time.
4. Help your candidate write their letter to the Archbishop. A sample form is in this booklet.
5. Attend the practice for receiving the sacrament of Confirmation on a scheduled evening. A calendar of all the events you need to attend is included at the back of this booklet.



Lead a life
worthy of the calling ...
making every effort
to maintain the unity
of the Spirit in
the bond of peace.
Ephesians 4:1-3

PROOF AND REGISTRATION OF CONFIRMATION

After confirmation has been celebrated, the pastor is to record in the confirmation register the names of those confirmed, the minister, the parents and sponsors and the date and place of confirmation. The pastor of the place of confirmation is also to advise the pastors of the places of baptism of each one confirmed so that proper notation can be made in the baptismal register (c.895). When more than one parish joins together for the celebration of confirmation, the pastor of each of the parishes involved is responsible to see to the recording of the confirmations of his parishioner in his own parish register and to notify the places of baptism. When confirmation is celebrated at the cathedral the same responsibilities rest with the individual pastors of those confirmed there.

When priests are delegated to confirm, instructions regarding the recording of the confirmation will be sent from the Chancery.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. May a candidate have more than one sponsor?

Yes, however, only one should be designated as the liturgical sponsor who will present the candidate for confirmation.

2. May parents be sponsors?

Parents may not act as sponsors (c.874) but they may present their son or daughter to the Archbishop for confirmation.

3. May someone who cannot be present be a sponsor and someone else fill in as proxy?

Yes, however, it is recommended that someone nearby be chosen as the sponsor so that she or he can become more intimately involved in the candidate's preparation.

4. May a priest or professed religious be a sponsor?

The former prohibition against priests or religious acting as sponsors has been eliminated from the 1983 code. Therefore, a priest may act as either a baptismal or confirmation sponsor. Religious are also free to undertake this role unless there is a specific restriction in their own Constitution.

5. What qualifies an individual as a sponsor?

To be admitted to the role of sponsor, a person must:

- be designated by the one to be confirmed;
- be 16 years old;
- be a Catholic who has been confirmed and who has received the sacrament of Eucharist and leads a life in harmony with the faith and role to be undertaken;
- not be bound by any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared;
- not be the father or mother of the one to be confirmed (c. 874).

6. Do candidates need a confirmation name?

As greater emphasis is placed on the intimate connection between confirmation and baptism, the baptismal name is seen as having greater significance. Candidates may choose a confirmation name if they desire, but are not encouraged to do so.

7. To whom should the letter of intent be written?

Letters of intent should be written to the confirming bishop or extraordinary minister assigned to your parish. They should be mailed directly in one packet to the confirming bishop or extraordinary minister of confirmation. Addresses of extraordinary ministers can be obtained from the Office of the Archbishop (769-3496).

8. What should be included in a letter of intent?

Letters of intent might include:

- the confirmand's desire to be confirmed;
- a statement or two about their faith growth -- past, present, future;
- a description of their service endeavors and the effect of these on their life.

9. What might be included in the confirmation interview?

Interviews that precede confirmation might include: the candidate's expectations, a description of their faith journey, personal goals for the program, choice of sponsor, individual's intent to be confirmed, program expectations, involvement of sponsors and parents, service experiences. Follow-up interviews at the end of the program might include: the development of their prayer/faith life, whether the program met their expectations, what was most/least helpful, what some unanswered questions are, what their next steps in faith formation might be, whether and why they want to be confirmed, service outcomes.

10. Is a confirmation retreat required?

The retreat is integral to a candidate's preparation and is not to be omitted.

Example

Your Excellency,

Being confirmed is a big step and a very important step in my life. Now, as a senior in high school and as an adult, I feel I am ready to be confirmed.

In the past, I used to dislike going to Mass, but now I look forward to it. I have learned a lot, especially in the past couple of months, about who I am and why I am here. God and Christ have shown me what I am to do with my life on earth, and that is to help and teach others. This is why I wish to be confirmed.

Being confirmed will be for me a step closer to knowing and fulfilling God's Commandments. It will also be something I have fulfilled on my own without any coaxing or pushing from family or friends. It is my "gift" from God and Christ for fulfilling my life, and the opening of the door to my "gift" for others.

Just recently I had the chance to use my gift, the gift to work with children. Here at St. Alphonsus, I have become a catechist. am helping a special little girl to prepare for her First Holy Communion. This commitment and several others have and still are preparing me for my Confirmation.

Having learned and done these things in these past months has really helped to get my life going in the direction it should be, but I could not have done it without the special people and catechists who has been preparing me for my Confirmation. I could never show them enough of my love and thanks.

"Some people brought children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples scolded the people. When Jesus noticed this, he was angry and said to his disciples, 'Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, because the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I assure you that whoever does not receive the Kingdom of God like a child will never enter it.' Then he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on each of them, and blessed them." (Mark 10.13-16)

Confirmation is my being brought to Jesus, and being taken in his arms and being blessed.

In Christ,

Yours truly,

REMEMBER TO SIGN YOUR NAME

Letter of Recommendation

Instructions: Please complete and return one of the following letters at the time of the interview, signed by your sponsor.

Dear Members of St. Alphonsus Parish

As sponsor of _____, I attest to the individual's sincerity and effort in striving to develop the qualities we have a right to expect of members of our faith community. I therefore personally recommend the candidate be confirmed in membership in the Holy Catholic Church

Respectfully,

Date: _____

Dear Members of St. Alphonsus Parish

After discussion with _____, a candidate for Confirmation as a member of the Holy Catholic Church, we have decided that it is best the Confirmation be postponed until a later date.

Respectfully,

Date: _____

Gifts of the Spirit Journal

A Journal for Confirmation Candidates and Their
Sponsors

Wisdom

Wisdom helps us make right decisions and guides us from doing wrong. Wisdom is a gift people build up through experience. A wise person knows what to do in many situations. A wise believer sees the people and events of human history fitting together in the large plan of God's love.

1. Think of a person you consider wise.
How do you think they received wisdom?
How does wisdom influence their lives?
2. Talk about a book or movie you have read or seen in which the main character seems to be very wise. Tell why you think this person acted wisely.
3. Write some words of wisdom that are yours. Make them words you would like to live by.
4. Do you tend to live for the moment or do you try to look ahead and consider the future?
How could the gift of wisdom help you in everyday decisions?

"The Lord gives wisdom." (Proverbs 2: 6)

Knowledge

The gift of knowledge helps us to know Jesus as our friend and to comprehend what is needed to serve God. Knowledge is a gift for seeking the facts and information necessary to make wise and fair decisions.

1. Talk about some ways you search for the truth in your life.
2. List three areas in which you want more knowledge.
3. If you were to talk with someone who is not baptized, what would you think is important to tell them about Jesus?

"The earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the Lord." (Isaiah 11:9)

REFLECTION on THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Candidate: _____

This is to be completed by the Confirmation Candidate after study & discussions with the Sponsor.

1. The gift(s) of the Spirit I learned the most about was _____
because...

2. The gift(s) of the Spirit I am most aware of in myself _____
because...

The gift(s) of the Spirit I am most aware of in my sponsor _____
because...

3. The gift(s) of the Spirit I need most _____
because...

Candidate brings this to their Spring interview.

Sponsor Signature: _____

RECORD OF YOUR MEETING WITH THE CANDIDATE

Candidate: _____ Sponsor: _____

Please keep a record of the times you meet with your candidate to discuss Confirmation. We will ask the candidate to bring this record to class toward the end of the Confirmation sessions.

Meeting #1 Date: Place:
What did you do?

Is there anything noteworthy about the candidate's progress toward Confirmation?

Meeting #2 Date: Place:
What did you do?

Is there anything noteworthy about the candidate's progress toward Confirmation?

Meeting #3 Date: Place:
What did you do?

Is there anything noteworthy about the candidate's progress toward Confirmation?

Meeting #4 Date: Place:
What did you do?

Is there anything noteworthy about the candidate's progress toward Confirmation?

Meeting #5 Date: Place:
What did you do?

Is there anything noteworthy about the candidate's progress toward Confirmation?

