



CATHEDRAL OF SAINT MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION

OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Sponsor Form

Summary:

The role of a Sponsor for the Sacrament of Confirmation is clearly defined in the Canon Law (Church Law). In choosing a Sponsor for Confirmation, keep in mind that the Cathedral of Saint Mary of the Assumption adheres to the guidelines defined by Church Law and the Diocese of Trenton.

Canon Law #892:

- As far as possible, a Sponsor for the one to be confirmed should be present; it is for the Sponsor to see that the confirmed person acts as a true witness of Christ and faithfully fulfills the obligations connected with the sacrament.

Canon #874:

To perform the role of Sponsor, it is necessary that the Sponsor:

- Be chosen by the person being confirmed, or by the parents, or by the pastor;
- Be 16 years of age or older at the Date of Confirmation
- Have received the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Eucharist & Confirmation)
- Have the Certificate of Eligibility from the pastor where the Sponsor is a registered parishioner
- Not be bound by canonical impediments, meaning that the individual must be living in harmony with the Teachings and Rules of the Church, and if married, needs to have a valid Catholic Marriage
- Not be the father or mother of the candidate. (In other words, parents, step parents, cannot be the Sponsors of their own child, not even as a proxy).

Important:

- It is desirable that the one who undertook the role of Sponsor at Baptism also be the Sponsor for Confirmation.
- A Sponsor should be a practicing Catholic, a mentor, a role model, an example of lived faith, attending Mass weekly, and a guide to the young person being confirmed. As far as possible the Sponsor should be accessible to the candidate to offer guidance and support, not only at Confirmation, but throughout one's lifetime.

Documents Required from Sponsors:

Whether a parishioner of the Cathedral of the Assumption or another Catholic Church, all Sponsors are required to certify their eligibility by obtaining a Letter of Eligibility from the pastor of their home parish. This is a common procedure and parish offices are accustomed to fulfilling such requests. Once the Letter of Eligibility is obtained, it should be attached to the Sponsor Form below by the required due date



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Candidate's Name: _____

As a Sponsor for Confirmation, my primary responsibility is to be an expression of what it means to be a practicing Catholic. As the candidate looks up to me will he/she find in me such an expression of our CATHOLIC FAITH? Am I willing to always be there to support, encourage and guide him/her in the on-going relationship journey with JESUS?

I, therefore, agree that:

- I will be sixteen years of age or older at the time of Confirmation.
- I believe and accept the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.
- I attend Holy Mass every Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation.
- I have received all the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation.
- I practice my Faith by receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Eucharist regularly.
- I also practice my Faith by living it out every day in my relationship with God and Neighbor.
- If single, I live as a single person, maintaining my integrity as expected of a Catholic individual in the single state. (Single state excludes living together with someone as an unmarried couple)
- If a college student away from home, I may approach the Campus Ministry to verify that I attend Mass and practice my faith regularly.
- If married, I am faithfully living the bond of the Sacrament of Marriage. (Being divorced does not exclude someone from being a Sponsor because divorce does not exist in the Catholic Church. It merely implies legal separation. The Catholic Church does not recognize a civil marriage, or remarriage, or just living with a partner. These situations would exclude a potential Sponsor).
- I know, as sponsor, my responsibility is to pay special attention to the above candidate, helping him/her by my own example of living my Catholic Faith, and assisting him/her in making right choices in keeping with the commitment made at Confirmation.
- I am also prepared to help the parents of the candidate in their task of living and teaching our Catholic Faith to their son/daughter.
- I am not the father or mother of the one being confirmed.

I have read and understand the requirements list above, and testify that I am eligible to be a Sponsor. Attached is the Letter of Eligibility from my parish.

Sponsor's Signature

Date