

St. Anthony's Confirmation Program

THE ROLE OF THE SPONSOR

A sponsor is a person who acts as model and guide for a candidate preparing for Confirmation. He/she encourages the candidate to pray, participate in the Eucharist regularly, and to become actively involved in the parish community. As candidates explore their faith, they may turn to their sponsors with questions or concerns. Thus, sponsors are called upon to share their faith with the candidates. Sometimes this means having to say, "I don't know, but I'll try to find the answer for you."

A sponsor's role is very important in the life of the candidate. Therefore the decision to accept the honor must be taken very seriously. In order to be a model and guide for another person, you must be actively involved in the "practice" of the Catholic faith. Consider the following questions to determine if this important ministry is one you can indeed carry out.

1. Have I received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist, and am at least 16 years old?
2. Do I regularly participate in Mass and receive the Eucharist?
3. Do I set aside some time each day for prayer?
4. Do I understand and support the Church's social teachings by ministering to the poor and needy?
5. Do I understand and support the Church's teachings on the virtue of chastity?
6. Do I understand that the Church has named Lent as a penitential season? Our tradition includes fasting and abstinence as Lenten practice. Do I strive to observe these regulations on the days appointed?
7. Do I understand and support the Gospel challenge to share my time, talents, and treasure in service to the community?
8. Do I understand and support the Church's call to support life at all moments and the need to challenge society when it fails to respect life?
9. If I am married, was I married in the Catholic Church?
10. When I am conscious of serious sin, do I seek forgiveness in the Sacrament of Penance?

If you are unsure about your responses to these questions, please contact the Religious Education Office to speak with someone who can help you discern your possible call to this important ministry.