



Catholic Faith Formation

Holy Family Catholic Parish
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November, 2011

Dear Sponsor,

Congratulations! You have been chosen to be a sponsor for Confirmation. This is quite an honor; at the same time, your willingness to fill such a role is quite a responsibility. We encourage you to make this time before Confirmation a special time of sharing and support for the candidate. The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults has this to say about those who serve as sponsors and Godparents:

"The sponsor is close to the candidate because of his/her example, character, and friendship. It is his/her responsibility to show the candidate in a friendly way the place of the Gospel in his/her own life and in society, to help him/her in doubts and anxieties...and to watch over the progress of his/her baptismal life...his/her responsibility remains important when the candidate has received the sacrament and needs to be helped to remain faithful to his/her baptismal promises..."

Although the above was written in reference to adult converts preparing for initiation into the Church, it is also relevant in our situation as well.

There are three projects that are to be completed together with your candidate as a part of their preparation process. I am giving you the project information to allow you time to plan and complete these projects. Hopefully the summer months will allow for more flexible schedules. To get the project information and instructions, please visit our website at www.holyfamilycaledonia.org and click on the Sacrament of Confirmation Sponsor Project Information.

For Sponsors who are unable to participate in the preparation process due to distance, health or other issues, I have included a few suggestions on the Faith In Action sheet.

Finally, I would like to encourage you in your role as Sponsor (next page). There is a lot going on in a short period of time and some may feel overwhelmed by it all. I pray for God's grace to be upon you, and may you joyfully guide this young person in his/her faith journey.

Thank you and God Bless,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Bierenga". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line above the first name.

Tim Bierenga
Middle School CFF Coordinator

Confirmation Sponsor Requirements 2011-2012

Role:

The Sponsor represents the support and prayers of the entire Catholic Church. He or she will be the Candidate's "spiritual friend". Choosing the right Sponsor is the key to having a fulfilling Confirmation experience even after the program is done. The Baptismal Godparents are recommended, but another important adult, who meets the requirements, can be chosen.

* According to Canon Law 874, a Sponsor can not be the Candidate's mother or father.

Sponsor Requirements:

- must be a *practicing confirmed Catholic at least sixteen years of age.*
- needs to be a person who is prayerful, loving, and is comfortable sharing with the young person.
- needs to be a person who will spiritually support the parents in raising the young person in the Catholic Church for the rest of the young person's life.

NOTE: If a sponsor is not a member of Holy Family, a Certificate of Sponsorship for Confirmation from their home parish is requested.

Program Requirements:

The following is asked of the Sponsor

1. Pray for and with the Candidate. Get to know the Candidate and lead them closer to Jesus Christ and His Church.
2. Attend the Confirmation Day retreat at Holy Family Parish with the candidate, Sunday, January 22, 2012 from 11:00am – 7:00pm.
3. Complete a Eucharistic Adoration Reflection hour with the Candidate.
4. Complete an act of service that shows "Faith in Action" with the Candidate. .
5. Assist the Candidate in choosing a Confirmation Patron Saint.
6. Write a letter of Recommendation to Fr. Mark Bauer. Letter details on website.
7. Present Candidate during the Confirmation Mass.
8. Continue to be available for the Candidate to lend spiritual support after the Confirmation ceremony is over.