

Sacrament of Confirmation

Role of the Sponsor

CHOICE OF SPONSOR

The choice of Sponsor by the candidate is very personal and should involve the elements of friendship, closeness, modelling and a living example of faith life. The following are some examples of possible choices:

- ❖ **Candidate's Baptism Godparent:** this links the Sacrament of Baptism with Confirmation and reaffirms the role Godparents accepted at Baptism.
- ❖ A relative or close friend, who is often close to the candidate as a model of faith, is closely associated with their everyday life, and may be seen to be approachable in times of greatest need.

ELIGIBILITY OF SPONSOR

- ❖ The sponsor must be **baptized CATHOLIC** who is suitable for the role and have the intention of fulfilling it.
- ❖ Be at least 16 years of age **who has been confirmed**.
- ❖ Has received the blessed Eucharist and lives a life of faith which befits the role to be undertaken.
- ❖ Not labour under canonical penalty and is permitted to receive the Sacraments whether imposed or declared.
- ❖ **Parents and step-parents may not be sponsors of their child.**

ROLE OF SPONSOR AT THE CEREMONY

- ❖ The sponsor sits with the candidate
- ❖ The sponsor proceeds with the candidate to the Bishop
- ❖ The sponsor presents the Name Card to the Priest
- ❖ The sponsor places their right hand upon the candidate's right shoulder
- ❖ The sponsor and the candidate return to their seat

ROLE OF SPONSOR FOLLOWING CONFIRMATION

The sponsor welcomes the candidate to the Church Community, and shows examples in life and faith by sharing and showing care for the faith life of their candidate.

SIGNIFICANCE OF A NAME

Keeping the child's Baptismal name reaffirms the name chosen at Baptism and the significance the Confirmation confirms the faith accepted by others for the candidate at Baptism.

In choosing another name we are recognizing that the person whose name we choose is a person of faith on whom we would like to model ourselves.