

Sacred Heart Cathedral
Confirmation Sponsor Welcome Letter and Information Form

REQUIREMENTS FOR SPONSORS

A SPONSOR MUST BE:

- At least 16 years old, and has been baptized, received first communion and confirmation, and is in good standing with the Catholic Church
- An active Catholic who attends Sunday Mass regularly, prays and participates in the Sacramental life of the church (receives communion regularly, goes to confession, and has an active prayer life).
- If married, a sponsor must be married in the Catholic Church
- Someone other than candidates mother or father

RESPONSIBILITIES OF A SPONSOR:

- Complete Confirmation Sponsor Information Form by November.
- Complete Sponsor Packet with Candidate (In Person or by Phone)
- **MUST** attend Confirmation Ceremony to witness to the candidate
- Pray for and with your candidate
- Share your Catholic Christian story with your candidate

Dear Sponsor:

You have been chosen to be a Confirmation sponsor, congratulations! This person sees in you a profound faith commitment, finds trust and knows you are someone who will care about them and their faith. Sounds impressive, doesn't it? It's not all that complicated, but it does take time, a caring heart, and a listening ear. If you're a practicing, mature Catholic, don't get too worried. Here are a few suggestions on how to be the best possible sponsor for your candidate:

- **Be a living model of faith.** At least a part of what this young person admires in you is your Catholic faith! If the way you practice your faith. Your life doesn't have to become artificially saintly, but your faith should be authentic and sincere.
- **Pray for your candidate and yourself.** As candidates decide to be confirmed, they need spiritual strength. Your prayers for them are important, but don't forget to pray for yourself also, that you can share why you value and practice your Catholicism. Attend Mass together if you can.
- **Give of your time and share your gifts.** Share your own experiences of Christian service with you candidate. Write a letter of encouragement. Let your unique God given talents and gifts shine! Offer a gift of spiritual significance—a new Bible, rosary, or book about the faith—but *be creative and relevant!*
- **Don't miss the ceremony!** Participating in the ceremony is the easiest part of being a sponsor. Your basic job will be to place your hand on your candidate's shoulder, and tell the bishop your candidate's Confirmation name. You're there to be a support, but your role on Confirmation day is only beginning.
- **Don't forget this newly confirmed Catholic.** After Confirmation day, remember birthdays and this anniversary. Send a card or make a phone call. Continue to worship together, or from time to time do some Christian service together. Put those "Gifts of the Spirit" into practice.

In Addition, you will be required to complete a **Confirmation Sponsor Packet** with your candidate. We encourage this to be in person; however, it may be completed over the phone. We ask that you make every effort to spend some quality time with the candidate. All packets will be due by April 1st. This packet replaces the need for us to hold any sponsor meetings.

Now that you know all about being a sponsor please complete and mail the form on the back and send along with a letter from your parish to Sacred Heart Cathedral Parish/HS Confirmation 219 W. Edenton Street Raleigh, NC 27603 by November 15th, 2011.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Kimberly or Matthew Wheeler, High School Confirmation Coordinators at hsministry@sacredheartcathedral.org.

Many Blessings, Kimberly and Matt Wheeler, Sacred Heart Cathedral Parish

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Sacred Heart Cathedral Sponsor Form: Complete and Mail by November 15, 2011, includes a letter from your parish stating your standing in the parish.

I have included a letter from my parish validating that I am a Catholic in good standing with the Roman Catholic Church.

Name of Confirmation Candidate: _____

Sponsor Information

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____ Birth date: _____

Name of parish you attend: _____

City: _____ State: _____

What is your relationship to the candidate? _____

How long have you known the candidate? _____

Sacraments

Have you been baptized? Yes/No

Have you received First Penance? Yes/No

Have you received First Eucharist? Yes/No

Have you been Confirmed? Yes/No

Responsibilities

The confirmation sponsor's role is one of a mentor in the Catholic faith. He/she will present the candidate to the Bishop on the day of confirmation and in doing this, state that the candidate is fully prepared to not only receive the sacrament of Confirmation, but also to live the Christian life. The sponsor should continue to support the candidate in his/her Catholic faith in the years ahead.

Any questions about your responsibilities: _____

Sponsor Signature

Date