

Immaculate Conception of the B.V.M. Catholic Church

Roman Catholic Diocese of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
106 Carlisle Street, New Oxford, PA 17350-1102
phone: 717.624.4121 ☎ fax: 717.624.4221

THIS FORM MUST BE COMPLETED AND RETURNED NO LATER THAN: _____

FOR MY SPONSOR AT CONFIRMATION

After consulting with my parents, I have decided to ask you to be my sponsor at Confirmation in Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, New Oxford, Pennsylvania.

By tradition, when an adult was preparing for Christian Initiation, a member of the Church was appointed to assist them in the long preparation, to give testimony about their readiness for the Sacraments, and later to help the new Christian persevere in and deepen their life in Christ.

In the Confirmation of Christians, the SPONSORS have a similar role, and it is even preferable that one of the godparents at Baptism appear again with the candidate so that the unity of life in the family of God is shown. Sponsors are members of the Catholic Church who have been fully initiated themselves, and are now delegated to represent the church community in the life of the one being Confirmed.

In the new Rite of Confirmation, the sponsor brings and presents the candidate to the Bishop. At the moment of the Sealing with the Holy Spirit, the sponsor has his/her hand on the shoulder of the candidate. This gesture shows that the sponsor recommends the candidate and “stands behind” him/her in faith.

Because of this, sponsors must know of the worthiness of the one they present. But they must also be worthy themselves. You represent not only your personal friendship to the candidate but also, as a sponsor, you represent the faith community that is the Church. Since they are the representatives of the community of believers, they are chosen because they live the life of Catholic Christians and because of their closeness to the Church. Any qualities of kinship or friendship are secondary to the example you are called to set by the quality of your Catholic life and closeness to our Church.

Signs of vitality are: a practicing, faith-filled Roman Catholic adult; able to relate in friendship to a teenager; willing to participate in the Confirmation process; willing to pray for the candidate; a good listener; and willing to share his or her own experience of faith. The sponsor should give the candidate an example of a good Catholic Christian Life, including regular attendance Mass each weekend; celebration of sacraments of Penance (Confession) and Communion in accord with the teachings of the Church; to support their parish both financially and by volunteering; and an honest daily effort to serve God and Neighbor. Also, a sponsor must be free from all Canonical Impediments, thus, if a sponsor is married he/she must be married according to the laws of the Roman Catholic Church. You are being asked to assume this important role. Your joy in being asked to be a sponsor will be increased if you know that your Church can recommend you with confidence.

If for any reason, you honestly think that you cannot accept these responsibilities at this time, please let me know as soon as possible. If you are ready to accept these responsibilities, with God’s help, I thank you for your willingness to accept. I, as the Confirmation candidate, nominate you as my sponsor, but it is the Church which appoints you, therefore, you **must** be recommended for this office by your parish priest. **Please complete the top part of the Sponsorship Certificate located on the reverse side of this letter and then present the certificate to your parish priest who will complete the bottom half with his signature and seal, thus recommending you as a qualified sponsor. Please return this page to me by the date above.**

Sincerely,

(Candidate’s Signature)