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II. Essential Roles

- A. **Parents** have a serious responsibility to be models of faith and Christian witness for their children.
 - 1. Parents must give explicit permission for their child to pursue full initiation into the Church through Confirmation.
 - 2. Parents are expected to participate in all parent sessions and to share in the total preparation of those to be confirmed.
- B. The **bishop** is the ordinary minister of Confirmation (cf Canon 882-883).
 - 1. Within the limits of their territory, those who are equivalent in law to the diocesan bishop may administer confirmation.
 - 2. The **priest** who baptizes one no longer an infant or admits one already baptized into full communion of the Catholic Church may administer confirmation.
 - 3. Any priest may administer confirmation to those in danger of death.
- C. **Candidates** for Confirmation are living signs of the mission of the church and witnesses to its continuing new life.
 - 1. Candidates must express explicit desire for the sacrament of Confirmation to the pastor or his delegate.
 - 2. Candidates must participate in the total preparation for Confirmation provided by the parish.
- D. A **catechist** is a person of faith commissioned to share in the ministry of the Word.
 - 1. The catechist should be an active member of the parish community who has been fully initiated into the Church.
 - 2. The catechist should have an ability to share faith and to help the candidate to further develop a prayer life.
 - 3. The catechist and the pastoral staff should develop a catechetical content which is consistent with the Church's vision of initiation and respectful of the psychological and spiritual growth of the candidate.
- E. The **sponsor** understands and accepts the responsibility to support and encourage the developing faith of the candidate.

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1. Since the sponsor shares in the primary ministry of the parents and the candidate, familiarity with the candidate's family, including their relationship with the Church, is essential.
 2. The sponsor participation includes those events and activities that are designed for the formation of the sponsor as well as the preparatory rites and the liturgy of Confirmation.
 3. The sponsor should be an active member of a parish community who has been fully initiated into the Church and at least 16 years of age (cf. c. 893, which refers to c. 874).
 4. It is desirable that the sponsor chosen be the one who undertook this role at baptism (cf. c. 893, par. 2).
 5. The sponsor, if unable to be present at the Confirmation ceremony, may be represented by a proxy.
 6. Neither parent can be the sponsor (cf. c. 874. par. 5). If, however, a sponsor is not available, parents may present their child for confirmation.
- F. The Christian **assembly** inspires and encourages the faith and conversion of the candidates through prayer and example.
1. The assembly supports the candidates by its active participation in the liturgical rites.
 2. The parish should provide the means for suitable preparation and ongoing formation for all called to minister to the candidates.