

The Role and Eligibility of the Sponsor According to the Diocese of Trenton

Role of Sponsors:

- Individual sponsors are to be selected.
- A sponsor is a person who knows the candidate and can help him / her on his / her spiritual journey.
- Ideally a sponsor is someone who already has been involved in the spiritual formation of the candidate, such as a godparent or member of the local parish.
- When possible the Baptismal sponsor should be chosen in order to show the relationship between Baptism and Confirmation.
- A sponsor needs to be acquainted with his or her responsibilities and given opportunities for inclusion in the candidate's immediate preparation program.
- A proxy sponsor may stand in for the individual sponsor if pastoral considerations warrant this. The same eligibility requirements would apply. Since parents are not eligible to act as a sponsor, to avoid confusion, it is best to avoid using a parent as a proxy.

Pre-requisites for Sponsors

- Be designated by the one to be confirmed, by the parents, or the person who takes their place in their absence, by the pastor or minister and have the aptitude and intention of fulfilling this function.
- Have completed the sixteenth year of age, unless the diocesan bishop has established another age, or the pastor or minister has granted an exception for a just cause.
- Be a baptized Catholic who has been confirmed and has already received the most holy Sacrament of the Eucharist and who leads a life of faith in keeping with the role / function they are about to assume.
- The sponsor must be a fully initiated Catholic who participates regularly in the Eucharist and who is not living in a marriage which the Roman Catholic Church does not recognize.
- Not be bound by any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared (ie. Excommunication).

(Diocese of Trenton: Parish Religious Education Administration Manual: 505 506, P505.1, November 2012)

Eligibility – Canon No. 872

- For a person to be eligible to be a sponsor her or she:
 - ✓ Must be sixteen years of age or older, and be a currently practicing Catholic
 - ✓ Must belong to the Catholic Church and have been initiated in the three sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.
 - ✓ Must not be prohibited by law from exercising the role of sponsor
 - ✓ May be the same sponsor the candidate had at Baptism or a new sponsor
 - ✓ May be either male or female for any candidate
 - ✓ May not be the child's parent
- Eligibility is to be verified by obtaining a *Sponsor Eligibility Certificate* from the sponsor's parish, if he or she is not a member of Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish.
(We cannot accept baptismal, communion or confirmation certificates as eligibility.)

About My Sponsor



Confirmation Sponsor

A sponsor is a responsible person, a companion on your journey of Confirmation preparation. Your sponsor is a special kind of friend, one who shares with you his or her own faith, knowledge, and experience of being a Catholic.

My sponsor's name: _____

Sponsor's parish: _____

Relationship to me: _____

I chose this person as my sponsor because: _____

The qualities I admire in my sponsor are: _____
