

BEING A SPIRITUAL GUIDE

A Handout for Sponsors

You have been chosen to sponsor one of our candidates for Confirmation in our parish. What an honour! This means that you are regarded as a person of example, a person someone looks up to as a model Christian, someone who can be counted on for support and guidance!

WHAT IS A SPONSOR?



Sponsors always ask us: "What do I have to do?" What is a more important question, however, is "Who do you have to be?" Your role is invaluable in the Confirmation candidate's life. Being a sponsor for someone (either at Baptism or at Confirmation) means living as an example of Jesus' life and message. It means guiding another person with support and challenge as they make the commitment to live out their Baptismal call as full members of the Church. This is certainly an awesome task, but not beyond the capacity of anyone who sees themselves as a humble servant of Jesus.

We invite you to find time in your life to develop your companionship with this candidate so that you can deepen the relationship of trust and respect that you already have.

As a sponsor, you do not only act on your own behalf. By your care and example for the candidate, you also symbolize and represent the care and support of the larger Christian community. You represent the Church.

WHAT DOES A SPONSOR DO?

Now, back to the question of "What do you have to do?" The process we use to prepare candidates for Confirmation in this parish, entails a series of small group meetings. We invite you to talk to your candidate about their experience of these meetings. Ask them what they talked about, what they learned and how they felt about it.

You are invited not only to the Confirmation but also to the **Rite of Call to Confirmation**, at which candidates will state their willingness to be confirmed and where the parish will commit to assist them by prayer and example. We understand that some of you will not be able to attend this Rite of Enrolment due to the distance you live from the candidate. If this is the case, it would be a good idea to make your presence felt by a phone call, letter or e-mail.

We will celebrate the **Rite of Calling to Confirmation** on
Saturday, February 11th, 2012 (5 pm)
& **Sunday, February 12th, 2012**, (8:30 am, 10 am & 12 noon)

Please check with your candidate to find out the exact date and time they will be attending this rite.