

St. Philip the Apostle Church

CONFIRMATION SPONSORS

Some Basic Church Rules Concerning Sponsors

It is the very ancient custom of the Church that at the celebration of the sacrament of baptism or confirmation, a sponsor is present. The function of the sponsor is: a) together with the celebrant who baptizes or confirms, to represent the Church in receiving the person into the communion of the Church; and b) to assist the person in Christian initiation. In accord with Canon 874 of the Code of Canon Law, the Church can admit a person to the role of sponsor if: a) he or she is not less than sixteen years of age; and b) is a Catholic who has been confirmed and has already received the blessed Eucharist and lives a life of faith which befits the role to be undertaken, and c) is not either the father or the mother of the person. Given the functions and role a sponsor exercises, a non-Catholic Christian cannot be admitted as a sponsor. Note that the Catholic seeking to be admitted as a sponsor “lives a life of faith which befits the role to be undertaken.” This phraseology means that the candidate for sponsor: a) sincerely believes and strives to put into practice the Word of God as taught by the Catholic Church; b) regularly takes part in the Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation and c) if married, was married in accordance with the requirements of the Catholic Church.

Consequently, the following do not qualify to be sponsors at Confirmation:

- 1 Those Catholics who are not actively affiliated with a worshiping community,
- 2 Those Catholics who are invalidly married, as for example, before a Justice of the Peace, or without proper dispensation, before a minister of a Protestant church or before a rabbi,
- 3 Those Catholics who are divorced and invalidly remarried, and
- 4 Those Catholics who have not received confirmation and the blessed Eucharist.

As you consider the person you wish to be your Confirmation sponsor, please complete the following:

1. Name of the person you wish to be your sponsor

2. Reason for choosing this person as your sponsor

Be sure to have your Confirmation sponsor secure a Letter of Eligibility from his/her parish if he/she is not a member of St. Philip the Apostle Church. This letter is due by December 12, 2010.