

## *Choosing a Confirmation Sponsor*

Each confirmation candidate (also known as a *confirmandi*) will have a sponsor to represent the support and faith of the community. The sponsor is a vital part of the preparation process who gives witness to faith that is alive through his or her example of prayer, ministry and honest sharing. The *confirmandi* and their sponsor will spend a lot of time together talking, reflecting on scripture, and praying. The sponsor will help the *confirmandi* process their thoughts, questions, and concerns. Officially in their canonical role, sponsors present candidates to the Bishop and the community for Confirmation. In addition, the sponsor might be called to be the *confirmandi*'s Confirmation companion at some of the parish confirmation gatherings or retreats. As you can see, it is important that the sponsor and *confirmandi* know and be comfortable with each other. We will provide you with the information, skills, suggestions and support for the sponsor role, if needed. Sponsors don't have to know **everything** there is to know about the Catholic faith. The important thing is that they personally value being a Catholic – a disciple of Jesus Christ and a member of the Church. Being asked to be someone's sponsor is an honor not an imposition. The "rules" for choosing a sponsor are that they must be a confirmed, practicing Catholic; at least 16 years old; male or female. They cannot be your parent, however the candidate's parent may be a sponsor for another candidate. Are the baptismal godparents still an important part of your life? They would be a natural choice. Prayerfully consider your choice of a confirmation sponsor. If you can't decide whom to ask, we can help you find a sponsor here in the parish. The ministry of Confirmation sponsor is a very important and rewarding one. The feedback we have received from previous sponsors is that the time was one of learning about and deepening their own faith – for both the *confirmandi* and the sponsor. Many sponsors feel that they didn't really appreciate the Sacrament of Confirmation in their own lives, until they shared the journey with their candidate. Choosing a sponsor is an important part of the confirmation process.