

## *Sponsors ... Godparents ... Padrinos*

Since early Christian times, aspirants for Baptism, Catechumens for First Holy Eucharist, and Candidates for Confirmation have been accompanied by a sponsor when they express their desire and request to be admitted as an aspirant or Catechumen or candidate.

The sponsor has a unique role in the process leading towards the reception of the sacrament and living out the new life of sacramental grace. The Following guidelines have been offered in choosing a sponsor:

A Sponsor must be a practicing Catholic. The sponsor has always been chosen either a man or a woman fully initiated in the Catholic Faith, which is:

Who has received the sacraments of Baptism, First Holy Eucharist and Confirmation is an active member and worships at his or her local Parish.

In addition, it has been required that the sponsor must be someone who

- knows the candidate well, and
- is willing to help the person and
- can be a witness to their morals, faith and intention.

A sponsor is a teacher, spiritual guide, mentor and confidant for the candidate.

The sponsor should be someone whose life is a powerful witness to the Gospel values and Teachings of the Church, One who practices and lives out one's faith

The Sponsor should be able to show the Aspirant, Catechumen or Candidate, in a friendly guiding way, the Place of the Gospel in their own lives, that of others and in the society.

The Sponsor accepts the responsibility to be there personally, to help the sponsored person in his or her need: in times of doubt and anxieties: to give a public testimony for the person and to watch over the growth and progress, to give a public testimony for the person and to watch over the progress of his or her Religious Formation.

The Sponsor embarking upon this responsibility agrees to attend Mass and other Faith filled theme sessions with the candidate.

It is expected of a sponsor to be prepared to attend several of the faith theme sessions with the candidate.

We urge the Sponsor to fulfill the mission as a guide and teacher for the aspirant, candidate and Confirmand.

Following the Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation, we urge the sponsor to continue to support and mentor the newly born Catholic.

- The Rite of the Sacrament of Confirmation presents the need of a sponsor for the confirmed. Sometimes parents choose sponsors for their child's First Holy Communion. The sponsors so chosen are required to be practicing Catholics. Either single or married in the canonical sense of the word.

Anyone living with another person or in a civil marriage, and therefore without the benefit of the Sacrament of Matrimony is not qualified to be a sponsor.

- The Church expects that the parents and the sponsors attend a seminar especially designed for the sponsors during the course of the preparation. These sessions invite the sponsors and parents to prepare for this sacramental encounter and celebration with their child, so that from this point on this journey becomes a consistent validation of who we are as Catholics
  - how we live out our Faith and practice and transmit our beliefs
  - and how we grow and support others in commitment to the faith.