

CHOOSING A SPONSOR

Candidates for baptism and confirmation need a sponsor. The sponsor is a Catholic guide who, knowing the ways of faith, helps the person who is receiving the sacrament to begin living the faith in the Catholic Church more fully, in keeping with the graces the sacrament supplies.

If I were going to cross the Rocky Mountains on foot, I would obtain the help needed to make the crossing safely. I would get maps, supplies, compass and the other equipment to make the journey safe. I might even hire a guide who was experienced in such crossings to help me in mine. The preparation for such a hike is rather simple compared to preparing to live as a Catholic Christian. Lack of adequate preparation for the hike might lead to injury, hunger or death. This however is minor in comparison to living our life well so that we might have eternal life. The sponsor must be a person who can share the good example of their life as a Catholic with me. Their support and encouragement is what will help me to live a moral life which will prepare me for eternal life.

There are certain qualifications that the Church has for sponsors. Consider the following question before choosing a sponsor who has to be eligible according to the Church :

- | | <u>YES</u> | <u>NO</u> |
|--|------------|-----------|
| 1. My sponsor is 16 or older..... | ___ | ___ |
| 2. My sponsor has been baptized a Catholic (or made a profession of faith in the case of a conversion to the Catholic faith) | ___ | ___ |
| 3. My sponsor has been confirmed in the Catholic Church..... | ___ | ___ |
| 4. My sponsor is a practicing Catholic.
That is he/she attends Mass weekly and contributes to the support of the Church. He/she is known to the parish priest where he/she is registered and the priest can testify to this. | ___ | ___ |
| 5. If my sponsor is married, he/she was married in the Catholic Church..... | ___ | ___ |
| 6. My sponsor can obtain a certificate from his/her parish that they are a Catholic in good standing. (Every sponsor needs one.)..... | ___ | ___ |
| 7. My sponsor may be the one I had at Baptism. | | |
| 8. My sponsor may be specially chosen for Confirmation. | | |
| 9. My sponsor may be a male or female. | | |
| 10. My sponsor cannot be my parent. | | |

If I have to answer "NO" to any one of questions 1 through 6 that person cannot be a sponsor according to Church rules. Do not ask him/her.

The sponsor has to process in with the candidate. In the case of an older person please make sure they can hear in order to follow directions given.

This paper is meant as a help for you in choosing a sponsor. Do not return it with the answers checked. It is to help us keep from hurting people's feelings. **If they do not meet the Church's**

qualifications please do not ask them and force us to say they are ineligible.