

September 20, 2019

Dear Confirmation Sponsor,

Welcome to the Journey!

You probably never imagined yourself as a “mentor,” but suddenly you find yourself in the role of “spiritual guide” for a teenager. You may feel honored, yet somewhat inadequate for the task. You may feel that you’re the last person to hold yourself up as a fully informed, totally dedicated Catholic and a suitable person for guiding others!

Keep two things in mind: your candidate chose you, and God chose you! Your candidate feels you have qualities and experiences that they admire, and that you are someone they trust. No one, least of all your candidate, expects you to be perfect or to have all the answers; they are asking you to accompany them on the journey toward Christian maturity. If we believe that God guides and directs our lives, then it is the Lord who called the two of you to this journey. He may or may not reveal the reasons right now; you may never know the seeds that have been planted.

Also, it is important to be realistic about our expectations of our candidates. The goal of this preparation time is GROWTH, not perfection. Readiness for Confirmation requires that the candidates demonstrate a willingness and capacity to continue to grow toward a mature and committed faith.

You will be asked to meet several times with your candidate. During these meetings, you will be asked to discuss topics of importance in faith development, and help him/her grow in the skills, knowledge, attitudes, and practices that are considered essential to being a committed member of the Catholic Church. More importantly, through your witness, you will challenge your candidate to grow in faith, hope, trust, and love. The teenager who has asked you to be a sponsor perceives you as someone who has something to offer. Trust that perception! Turn to God for the graces you will need in the adventuresome walk with your young person on a spiritual journey.

If you have questions along the way, please don’t hesitate to contact me!

Blessings in Christ,

Darci Mills

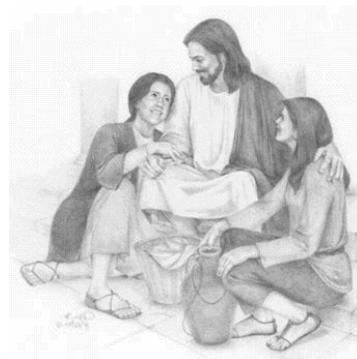
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Personally Confirmed Faith Includes:



Personal Faith and Prayer:

A growing awareness of God and of God's role in my life;
daily personal prayer;
a commitment to Jesus as my friend and savior;
openness to the guidance of the Holy Spirit.



Personal Morality

An honest desire to keep the commandments and
to make my daily decisions according to God's will;
frequent examination of my life;
regular celebration of the sacrament of reconciliation.



Commitment to Eucharist

A personal commitment to attend Holy Mass each Sunday and Holy Day;
a willingness to contribute to the Eucharistic celebration by praying, listening,
and singing.



Community Membership

A sense of belonging in my parish community;
a willingness to be there when the parish gathers for fun, for prayer, for service;
a desire to give my time, talents, and treasure to my parish.



Service and Ministry

Generosity with my time;
awareness of the needs of others, especially my own family;
willingness to use my talents for others;
concern for the poor, the lonely, the aged, the needy.



Religious Knowledge

An understanding of the basics of Catholic Christianity –
scripture, the commandments, the creed, church history,
liturgical rites, sacraments;
a recognition of my need to continue studying my faith all through my life.