

# **Saint John Vianney & Holy Family**



**Confirmation Sponsor**  
2016-17

# **INTRODUCTION TO SPONSORS**

## **NATURE AND PURPOSE OF THE PARISH SPONSOR PROGRAM**

Stated most simply, this aspect of the candidate's preparation for Confirmation involves a series of meetings with you, the sponsor. During these meetings you are to serve as a mentor ("master" coach) in helping the candidate grow in those skills, knowledge, attitudes and practices that are considered essential to being a maturing, responsible, committed (that is, confirmed) member of the Church, a professed follower of Jesus.

This program of sponsorship is modeled after elements of a longer and more arduous period of preparation converts in the early Church experienced prior to their Baptism/Confirmation into the Church. That program was called the catechumenate. As a parish, we restored this process in the Rites of Christian Initiation of Adults many years ago.

If you are like most persons who have been asked to serve as a sponsor, you feel both flattered and a little inadequate. You would probably be the last one to hold yourself up as a fully informed, totally dedicated Catholic Christian suitable for guiding others.

Keep two things in mind. First, your candidate freely chose you, so he/she must feel you have some basic qualities and experiences that can help the candidate grow. Second, you are asked to be somewhat more mature, more informed and more experienced than your candidate. No one, least of all the candidate, expects perfection from you. Just a willingness to share - and to continue to grow in your own faith.

Also, it is important to be as realistic toward your candidate as you are toward yourself.

The goal of the sponsor program is GROWTH, not PERFECTION for the candidate. Readiness for Confirmation requires that the candidate demonstrates a willingness and a capacity to continue to grow toward mature and be committed faith. The actual goal of perfected faith and total imitation of Jesus remains a lifelong quest. Your task is to help your candidate take the next step in that quest, not the final step.

If you properly understand the purpose of this sponsorship, you will realize that you have all the necessary qualities for assisting your candidate.

That confidence, coupled with the personal investment of your time - and continued prayer for Jesus' assistance - will insure that the sponsor program will be a successful and rewarding experience for both the candidate and you.

# MEETINGS WITH YOUR CANDIDATE

1. Pray for your Candidate
2. **Utilize the entire Sponsor Guide Book by Chosen**
3. The first FOUR meetings should cover Part 2 of the Sponsor Guide, "Four Important Conversations to Have with your Candidate"
4. The Fifth and final meeting should cover Part 3 of the Sponsor Guide, "Top Ten Catholic Questions"
5. Complete the **Summary Sheet** after your first meeting and the second **Summary Sheet** after your last meeting. Please return them to the Parish Center, mail them to the Parish Center or place them in the offertory collection at Mass – all Attention: Katie Stone. Please return by the following Monday after each meeting.
6. Complete the **Sponsor's Recommendation of Candidate** and the **Time and Talent (to be done with your candidate)** sheets and return to NO LATER THAN (Rite of Affirmation Mass)

## Recommended Meeting Dates/Week of:

1. **October 19:** *No Class – MEA Break*  
"The Way" on page 30
2. **November 23:** *No Class – Thanksgiving Break*  
"The Truth" on page 35
3. **December 28:** *No Class – Christmas Break*  
"The Life" on page 41
4. **January or February:** You & Your candidate's choice  
"Mystagogy" on page 46
5. **April 12:** *No Class – Holy Week*  
The Top Ten Catholic Questions on page 49

You will need to decide with your candidate the place where you will meet. It may be in your home, the candidate's home or a neutral site (i.e. Perkins/Caribou Coffee/Library).

I ask that you try to meet with them within 1 week of the assigned times, since I know some of these dates will be difficult to coordinate. Please make sure that you are keeping the meetings about 1 month apart so we ensure you are walking alongside your candidate throughout this entire year leading to Confirmation.

# The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit

As Baptism, we receive seven special gifts from the Holy Spirit. These gifts are freely given to us to help us live as followers of Jesus and to build up the Body of Christ, the Church. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit are sealed and strengthened within us at Confirmation. These seven gifts help us to respond to the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives, to make good choices, and to serve God and others.

**Wisdom** is the gift of knowing the right choices to make to live a holy life. The gift of wisdom helps you to avoid the things that could lead you away from God.

*Related Scripture: Ephesians 1:17-19*

**Understanding** is the gift of comprehension, or the ability to grasp the meaning of the teachings of the Church. The gift of understanding helps you be tolerant and sympathetic of others. It helps you sense when someone is hurting or in need of compassion.

*Related Scripture: John 16:13*

**Right Judgment, or Counsel**, is the gift of prudence. The gift of right judgment helps you make choices to live as a faithful follower of Jesus.

*Related Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22*

**Courage, or Fortitude**, is the gift that helps you stand up for your faith in Christ. The gift of courage helps you overcome any obstacles that would keep you from practicing your faith.

*Related Scripture: Joshua 1:9*

**Knowledge** is the gift of knowing and enlightenment. The gift of knowledge enables you to choose the right path that will lead you to God. It encourages you to avoid obstacles that will keep you from him.

*Related Scripture: Ephesians*

3:18-19

**Reverence**, or Piety, is the gift of confidence in God. This gift of reverence inspires you to joyfully want to serve God and others.

*Related Scripture: John 16:13*

**Wonder and Awe**, or Fear of the Lord is the gift of wonder and respect that encourages you to be in awe of God. The gift of wonder and awe moves you to so love God that you do not want to offend him by your words or actions.

*Related Scripture: Psalm 33:8-9*

## The Fruits of the Holy Spirit

When we cooperate with the graces and gifts we receive from the Holy Spirit, we grow as followers of Jesus. We see the effect of the Holy Spirit's presence in our lives in special qualities and attitudes that we develop as we grow in faith. The Church identifies these qualities and attitudes as the fruits of the Holy Spirit. The twelve fruits of the Holy Spirit are signs that the Holy Spirit is alive within us and helping us live the Catholic faith in our daily lives.

**Love** - We exhibit the virtue of charity, or love, by our unselfish devotion and care for God and our neighbor.

**Joy** - We live with joy when we recognize that true happiness comes, not from money or possessions, but from knowing and following Christ.

**Peace** - We are freed from worrying about trivial things because of the inner peace we experience with God in our hearts. We work and pray for peace throughout the world.

**Patience** - We demonstrate patience by treating others with thoughtfulness and tolerance. We know that we can overcome the temptations and sufferings of life because God is always with us.

**Kindness** - We live the virtue of kindness by treating others as we want to be treated.

**Goodness** - We exhibit goodness when we honor God by avoiding sin and always trying to do what we know is right.

**Generosity** - We demonstrate the fruit of generosity when we share our gifts and possessions with others.

**Gentleness** - Gentle people act calmly and avoid actions that might lead others to anger or resentment.

**Faithfulness** - We are faithful when we live out our commitment to the teachings of Jesus, the Scriptures, and the Catholic Church.

**Modesty** - We exhibit modesty by being pure in our thoughts, words, and dress.

**Self-control** - We exercise self-control by working to overcome the temptations we face and by trying always to do God's will.

**Chastity** - We live the virtue of chastity when we use the gift of sexuality wisely, according to God's plan.

# The 5 Precepts of the Catholic Church

The precepts of the Church are duties that the Catholic Church requires of all the faithful. Also called the commandments of the Church, they are binding under pain of mortal sin, but the point is not to punish. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church explains, the binding nature "is meant to guarantee to the faithful the indispensable minimum in the spirit of prayer and moral effort, in the growth of love of God and neighbor." If we follow these commands, we'll know that we're headed in the right direction spiritually. This is the current list of the precepts of the Church found in the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Traditionally, there were seven precepts of the Church; the other two may be found at the end of this list.

## The Sunday Duty

The first precept of the Church is "You shall attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation and rest from servile labor." Often called the Sunday Duty or the Sunday Obligation, this is the way in which Christians fulfill the Third Commandment: "Remember, keep holy the Sabbath day." We participate in the Mass, and we refrain from any work that distracts us from a proper celebration of Christ's Resurrection.

## Confession/Reconciliation

The second precept of the Church is "You shall confess your sins at least once a year." Strictly speaking, we only need to take part in the Sacrament of Confession if we have committed a mortal sin, but the Church urges us to make frequent use of the sacrament and, at a minimum, to receive it once each year in preparation for fulfilling our Easter Duty.

## The Easter Duty

The third precept of the Church is "You shall receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter season." Today, most Catholics receive the Eucharist at every Mass they attend, but it wasn't always so. Since the Sacrament of Holy Communion binds us to Christ and to our fellow Christians, the Church requires us to receive it at least once each year, sometime between Palm Sunday and Trinity Sunday (the Sunday after Pentecost Sunday).

### **Fasting and Abstinence**

The fourth precept of the Church is "You shall observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church." Fasting and abstinence, along with prayer and almsgiving, are powerful tools in developing our spiritual life. Today, the Church requires Catholics to fast only on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, and to abstain from meat on the Fridays during Lent. On all other Fridays of the year, we may perform some other penance in place of abstinence.

### **Supporting the Church**

The fifth precept of the Church is "You shall help to provide for the needs of the Church." The Catechism notes that this "means that the faithful are obliged to assist with the material needs of the Church, each according to his own ability." In other words, we don't necessarily have to tithe (give ten percent of our income), if we can't afford it; but we should also be willing to give more if we can. Our support of the Church can also be through donations of our time, and the point of both is not simply to maintain the Church but to spread the Gospel and bring others into the Church, the Body of Christ.

### **Two More...**

Traditionally, the precepts of the Church numbered seven instead of five. The other two precepts were:

- To obey the laws of the Church concerning Matrimony.
- To participate in the Church's mission of Evangelization of Souls.

**Both are still required of Catholics**, but they are no longer included in the Catechism's official listing of the precepts of the Church.

## Helping your Candidate choose a Saint!

Patron saints are chosen to be special guardians or protectors. Roman Catholics believe that the saints who have died and gone to heaven can intercede with God on behalf of people still on earth. When Roman Catholic children are baptized, they sometimes are given the name of a patron saint. Before receiving the sacrament of Confirmation, candidates choose a patron saint. Churches are named after a patron saint. The process of choosing a patron saint involves prayer, study and discernment. There are thousands of saints, how do you choose? To help you narrow down your choices to the one saint who is your ideal match, consider the following:

### Research

Pick up a book on saints or search on the following internet sites:

[www.catholic.org/saints](http://www.catholic.org/saints)

[www.americancatholic.org/Features/Saints/byname.aspx](http://www.americancatholic.org/Features/Saints/byname.aspx)

and read about the lives of popular saints who had a profound impact on the Church.

The trials and tribulations that the saints experienced, as well as their triumphs and examples of faith, can be a great source of inspiration for your own life.

### Hobbies and Cause

Do you have a hobby or a worthy cause that you are passionate about? Search for the saint who shares your similar goals and interests. There is a patron saint for practically every cause. For example, if you have a special connection to animals, consider choosing the name Francis (after the great animal lover *St. Francis of Assisi*). If you're looking for a saint who lived an exemplary life of selflessness, *St. Maximilian Kobe* is a great example. During World War II he gave up his life for another person's life in a German concentration camp.

If music is your passion, *St. Cecelia*—patron saint of musicians—may interest you.

### Virtues

A virtue that a particular saint exhibited that connects with you—bravery, obedience, charity, patience, or courage.

- Do you find yourself standing up for those who need a help? Maybe you should pick Saint Michael!
- If you admire courage and would like to be more courageous yourself, choose one of the martyrs.
- If you admire compassion, consider one of the saints who were servants of the poor.
- If you want a deep relationship with God, consider a saint who was a mystic or monastic.

### Baptismal Name

If your first name (baptismal name) is a saint's name, the Church allows you to use it as your Confirmation name. Doing so is actually encouraged because it's a symbolic way of recalling your baptism.

### Gender

Your patron saint can be of the same or opposite gender.

### Ancestry

Research patron saints for your country and the countries your ancestors are from.

### Pray!

If you've narrowed down your choices and are stuck and can't decide, pray! Ask God to shed His light on who He thinks is the best name for you.



# Saints

Albert the Great (scholar & bishop) .....	scientists
Anastasia (martyr) .....	weavers
Andrew (apostle) .....	fishermen
Ann (mother of Mary).....	homemakers
Apollonia (martyr) .....	dentists
Barbara (martyr) .....	prisoners, architects, firefighters
Brendan (missionary).....	sailors
Catherine of Siena (advised the pope) .....	nurses
Cecilia (martyr) .....	musicians
Christopher (carried the Christ Child) .....	motorists
Clare (followed St.Francis, founded Poor Clares) .....	television
Colette (reformed the Poor Clares) .....	expectant mothers
Dorothy (martyr) .....	florists & brides
Eligius (goldsmith) .....	jewelers
Elizabeth of Hungary (queen) .....	bakers
Frances Xavier Cabrini (missionary to America) .....	immigrants
Frances de Sales (bishop) .....	writers
Francis of Assisi (founded Order of Friars Minor, also know as Franciscans) .....	merchants & animals
Gabriel (archangel).....	mail carriers
Gemma (mystic).....	pharmacists
Gregory the Great (pope).....	singers & teachers
Isidore (farmer) .....	farmers
Jerome (Scripture scholar) .....	librarians
Joachim (father of Mary).....	fathers
Joan of Arc (deliverer of France) .....	soldiers & France
Joseph (foster father of Jesus) .....	carpenters
Joseph of Arimathea (buried Jesus) .....	funeral directors
Lawrence (martyr).....	cooks
Louis of France (king) .....	barbers
Lucy (martyr) .....	eye patients
Lydwina (united her sufferings with those of Christ) ....	skaters
Luke (physician,Gospel writer) .....	doctors & artists
Matthew (apostle).....	accountants & bankers
Michael (archangel) .....	police officers
Monica (mother of St. Augustine) .....	mothers
Sebastian (soldier) .....	athletes & armies
Teresa of Avila (reformed the Carmelite Order) .....	headache sufferers
Therese of Lisieux (contemplative) .....	missionaries
Thomas Aquinas (scholar).....	students
Thomas More (lawyer,martyr).....	lawyers

# Holy Spirit Prayer of Saint Augustine

Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit,  
That my thoughts may all be holy.

Act in me, O Holy Spirit,  
That my work, too, may be holy.

Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit,  
That I love but what is holy.

Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit,  
To defend all that is holy.

Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit,  
That I always may be holy.

# Documentation of Sponsor/Candidate Meetings

Date	Topic	Sponsor Initials	Candidate Initials	Location
October 19 <small>suggested date</small>	"The Way"			
October				
November 23 <small>suggested date</small>	"The Truth"			
November				
December 28 <small>suggested date</small>	"The Life"			
December				
January	"Mystagogy"			
February				
April 12 <small>suggested date</small>	The Top Ten Catholic Questions			
April				

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (parent's name) attest that my student and their sponsor met on the dates/locations indicated above.

Parent's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

This completed information will only be seen by the Confirmation Program Director. Please return to **Katie Stone** at: 901 S. Prairie Ave, Fairmont, MN 56031 or by the offertory collection in envelope labeled for *Katie Stone, Faith Formation*.

**CANDIDATE'S NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**SPONSOR'S NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**MEETING DATE** \_\_\_\_\_

As you conclude your **FIRST** meeting, put in writing your observations concerning your candidate's:

1. Attitude and willingness to share their faith in general ...

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2. Do you believe your candidate is positively moving towards Confirmation? Yes or No (circle) How are they trying to grow deeper in their Christian faith?

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3. Any highlights or concerns regarding your discussion of faith?

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4. Any one point of your discussion that you feel is worthy to share...

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**Please be specific.** This information will only be seen by the Confirmation Program Director (and Father if any concerns about the candidate's willingness to participate in the program are mentioned). Please return to **Katie Stone** at: 901 S. Prairie Ave, Fairmont, MN 56031 or by the offertory collection in envelope labeled for *Katie Stone, Faith Formation*.

CANDIDATE'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

SPONSOR'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

MEETING DATE \_\_\_\_\_

As you conclude your **LAST** (5<sup>TH</sup>) meeting, put in writing your observations concerning your candidate's:

1. Has their attitude and willingness to share increased or decreased, reason why?

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2. Do you believe your candidate has positively moved towards Confirmation? How have they grown deeper in their Christian faith over the past 7 months? (examples)

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3. Any positive or negative comments regarding your discussions?

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4. Any one point of your discussion that you feel is worthy to share.../how discussion has changed from your FIRST meeting...

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Please be specific. This information will only be seen by the Confirmation Program Director (and Father if any concerns about the candidate's willingness to participate in the program are mentioned). Please return to **Katie Stone** at: 901 S. Prairie Ave, Fairmont, MN 56031 or by the offertory collection in envelope labeled for *Katie Stone, Faith Formation*.

# Time and Talent Sheet

Candidate's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

The Sacrament of Confirmation completes your process of initiation into the Catholic Church and the St. John Vianney/Holy Family Parish family. As a fully initiated member of the Church and Parish Family, you now have additional responsibilities. Among them is your responsibility to yourself and the rest of our Parish Family to build up your gifts and talents and to offer them in service.

**Please fill out this Time and Talent survey by checking the areas that you are interested in serving in at this time. Your sponsor will return it with their Summary Sheet.**

*(You must choose at least 2 areas)*

## LITURGY

### **Ministry of the Word**

\_\_\_ Lector

### **Music Ministry**

\_\_\_ Instrumentalist (specify)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Cantor

\_\_\_ With One Voice (Practice Thursdays)

\_\_\_ Spirit Wind Choir (Practice Tuesdays)

\_\_\_ Youth Choir

\_\_\_ Children's Choir (Assist with)

### **Hospitality Ministry**

\_\_\_ Hospitality Minister

### **Eucharist Ministry**

\_\_\_ Eucharistic Minister

### **Prayer Ministry**

\_\_\_ Member of the Prayer Chain

### **Other Talents:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## EDUCATION/YOUTH

### **Faith Formation**

\_\_\_ Sunday School Aide

Children's Liturgy of the Word

\_\_\_ Leader \_\_\_ Assistant

\_\_\_ Elementary Classroom Aide  
(Wednesday Nights)

\_\_\_ Prayer Listener for Elementary  
Children

### **Saint John Vianney School**

\_\_\_ Tutor / Aide

\_\_\_ Assist with Sports Programs

### **Saint John Vianney Youth Ministry**

\_\_\_ Assist with Junior High Activities

\_\_\_ Help with Vacation Bible School

### **Service**

\_\_\_ Volunteer at the Hope Shop

\_\_\_ Hope Cafe

\_\_\_ Fall Festival/Family Fest  
games worker/waitress/waiter

## Sponsor's Recommendation of Candidate

CANDIDATE'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

SPONSOR'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

As you conclude your time with your candidate please put in writing your observations concerning your candidate. Please be as specific as possible.

1. Describe your candidate's **desire** to be a FULLY INITIATED MEMBER OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.

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2. Describe your candidate's **enthusiasm** to be AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.

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3. Detail ways that your candidate is **willing to practice** his/her faith as a fully initiated member.

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Sponsor's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_