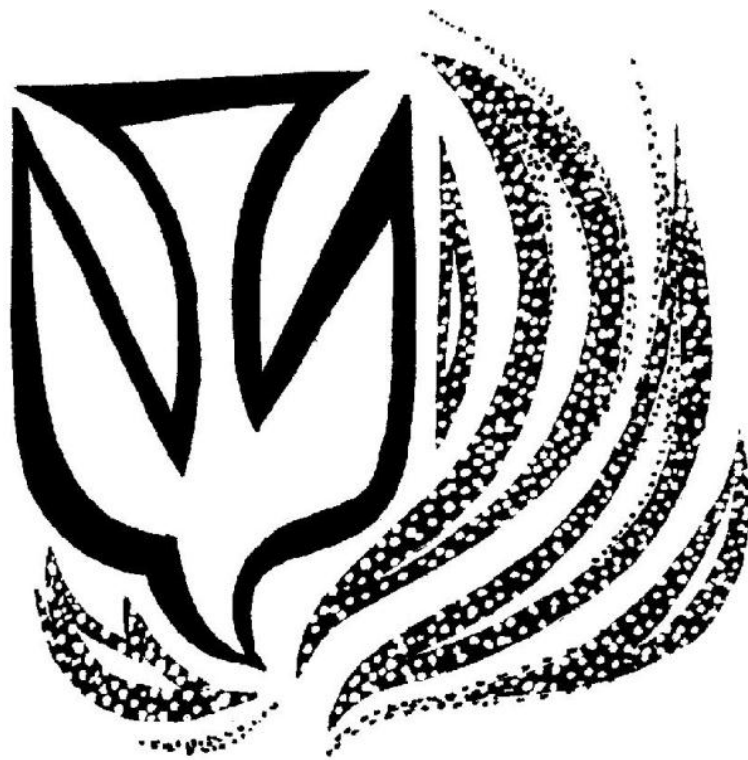


**Saint John Vianney  
&  
Holy Family**



**Confirmation Sponsor**  
2015-16

# **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 14:** *No Class – MEA Break*  
“The Way” on page 30
2. **November 25:** *No Class – Thanksgiving Break*  
“The Truth” on page 35
3. **December 30:** *No Class – Christmas Break*  
“The Life” on page 41
4. **January or February:** You & Your candidate's choice  
“Mystagogy” on page 46
5. **March 23rd:** *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.

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 in general...

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

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3. Any positive or negative comments regarding your discussion?

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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** 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. Attitude and willingness to share in general...

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2. Do you believe your candidate is positively moving towards Confirmation?  
Are they trying to grow deeper in their Christian faith?

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3. Any positive or negative comments regarding your discussion?

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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** 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

\_\_\_ Nursery Assistant (10:00 Mass)

\_\_\_ 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: \_\_\_\_\_