



*"It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you..." John 15:16*

## **Welcome!**

You have been invited to sponsor a candidate for Confirmation, an invitation of great honor and responsibility. A "sponsor" is not just an honorary title; it is a calling. Your candidate has identified you as a living witness of faith in Jesus Christ and his Church. With this honor comes the responsibility to guide and support your candidate as he or she prepares for the Sacrament of Confirmation and beyond. You are called to be a Christian witness, friend, prayer warrior, and ally to your candidate for the rest of your life.

Enclosed you will find a booklet - a "**Sponsor's Guide**" which includes practical ideas for engaging your student, and frequently asked questions about the Catholic faith in an easy-to-use guide. I invite you to read through Part 1: Becoming a Confirmation Sponsor.

Over the next couple of months you will read and then engage your candidate in Part 2: Four Important Conversations to Have with Your Candidate. Three of these conversations happen prior to the celebration of Confirmation and one happens afterwards. I will communicate via email to prompt your discussions. There are suggested discussion starters, but make a plan now to check in with your candidate **each week** to see how they are doing. Texts, social media, phone calls, letters, and in-person are all suitable ways to communicate with your student. A simple way to do this is to ask "What's new with you?" and then offer to pray for them and whatever they have going on.

A few things to note:

- Our celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation will take place at Sacred Heart Cathedral, in Rochester. In the past we've requested families to please be in your seats by 6:45pm. We do not yet have a date or time, as the schedule for the new Bishop has not been finalized. I will keep you posted!
- Please plan to attend an in-person Final Preparation session with your Candidate on **Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>**. We will meet in **St. Agnes Church at 11:30am**. This will include a Parish sending at Mass, lunch, our final preparation topics and a rehearsal for the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation. Parents are invited to Mass at 11:30am and the rehearsal segment at 2:30pm. We will conclude at 3:30pm.
- Any events that you cannot attend personally (including the celebration of the Sacrament) can be fulfilled by a proxy (a parent or other adult). Please let me know if this is the case for your Candidate. I communicate primarily by email. I will copy parents and sponsors on emails from me.

The most important and effective part of your sponsorship is **prayer**. Pray every day for your candidate and their family. Families are the heart of teaching and learning about our faith. They need you in their corner, praying for them and interceding on their behalf.

May God bless you on this journey.

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