



Office of the Chancellor

Memorandum

To: Priests, Lay Ministers
From: Mary Jo Tully
Re: Confirmation Sponsors
Date: January 15, 2008

The attached letter has been provided by the Archbishop to answer the questions that Confirmation sponsors frequently have regarding their ability to fulfill their role. Feel free to send it to sponsors, print it in your bulletin or to use it in any way that you find helpful.



Office of the Archbishop

Dear Confirmation Sponsor,

It is a great honor to be chosen to be a Confirmation sponsor. Many times those who are asked to assume the role of sponsor are uncertain about their ability to fulfill this role. Perhaps you too are wondering if you are eligible to be a sponsor. The requirements to be a sponsor for Confirmation are the same as those required to be a Godparent at Baptism. By answering the following questions you will be able to determine whether or not you may be a sponsor.

- Have I received all three Sacraments of Initiation; Baptism, Confirmation and First Eucharist?
- As a practicing Catholic, have I participated at Mass on Sundays and Holydays and have I received the Sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation regularly?
- Am I living my Christian vocation as a single person or as a person validly married in the Church?*
- Have I actively strived to live out my own baptismal commitment to Christ and His Church by my response to all people?
- Do I believe all that the Roman Catholic Church teaches and believes? Have I truly made a serious effort to live an upright life?
- I am NOT the parent of the child to be baptized or confirmed.
- Am I at least 16 years old?
- Do I realize that I assume great responsibility before God and the Church in becoming a sponsor? Do I promise to give my support to the person I am sponsoring by my prayers and Christian examples in my daily life?

Only those who are able to answer yes to all the above questions are eligible to be sponsors for Baptism and Confirmation.

The candidate who has asked you to be his/her sponsor likely has a good deal of affection for you and admires you. Preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation can be a shared time of grace for both the sponsor and the candidate. Thank you for your willingness to undertake this role.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Rev. John G. Vlazny
Archbishop of Portland in Oregon

**Those married by the Justice of the Peace, those living together without the benefit of marriage and those who have been divorced and remarried without a Declaration of Nullity from the Diocesan Tribunal from a previous marriage(s) are NOT eligible to fulfill the role of sponsor for Baptism and Confirmation in the Catholic Church.*