



1502 Sara Rd SE  
Rio Rancho, NM 87124  
505.892.1511  
stanm.org

# PURPOSE

Dear \_\_\_\_\_  
(write in Sponsors Name Here)

I would like to invite you to be my Sponsor for Confirmation. This invitation is a great honor and responsibility. A "sponsor" is not just an honorary title; it is a calling. I see you as a living witness of faith in Jesus Christ and his Church. With this honor comes the responsibility to guide and support me as I prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation and beyond. You are being called to be a Christian witness, friend, prayer warrior, and ally to me for the rest of your life.

You may have questions and perhaps even some hesitations about being my sponsor. My Confirmation Program at St. Thomas Aquinas will help you become an effective sponsor by renewing and encouraging your personal growth in Catholic Faith and life. Until I am Confirmed you will receive practical ideas for engaging with me and providing clear answers to questions that are often asked by teens and adults-about the fundamentals of the Catholic Faith.

The most important and effective part of your sponsorship is prayer. May the Holy Spirit inspire and encourage you as you accompany me on the journey to a fullness of life in Christ.

I hope and pray that you will accept this great title and journey with me.

Sincerely yours,

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(Teens Sign your Name Here)

## What is a Confirmation Sponsor?

What was your first reaction when you were invited to be a Confirmation sponsor? Were you excited? Nervous? Did you wonder if you had what it takes to do the job well?

Do not be afraid. You do not need a doctorate in theology for this job. You may want to use this opportunity to take a look at the Catechism and other Catholic resources to refresh your own knowledge of the Faith. As you find answers to your own questions, you will be better able to guide your candidate to legitimate sources of Catholic teaching.

If you feel spiritually inadequate to be a Confirmation sponsor, consider this as an invitation from God to grow in your own faith. He loves you, after all. If something glaring has been separating you from God, maybe now is the time to bring that to Confession. Your candidate sees something spiritually admirable in you-something in you that inspires him or her in the Catholic Faith. Set aside any self-doubt, and consider that God may be calling you to this role for the sake of examining your own heart as well as guiding your candidate.

Nothing promotes personal growth like forgetting ourselves and turning toward another. The best way to be a good sponsor is to pray often for your candidate and to keep your own eyes fixed on Jesus. Do not be afraid if you are not perfect. It is often said, "The Church is not a museum of saints, but a hospital for sinners."

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Confirmation Sponsors have 3 primary Roles:

1. To assist the candidate in preparing for Confirmation
2. To present the candidate for Confirmation
3. To help the confirmed person to live out their Christian Faith

## What Qualifies Someone to be a Confirmation Sponsor?

A sponsor must have the following Qualifications:

1. Be a practicing Catholic who is at least 16 years old.
2. Be registered in A Catholic Parish
3. Attend Mass Every Sunday and on Holy Days of Obligation
4. Go to Confession at least once a year, and receive Holy Communion at least once a year
5. Have Received the Sacrament of Confirmation
6. If Married Be married in the Catholic Church
7. Be a person who leads "A life of faith in keeping with the function to be taken on."
8. NOT BE a parent of the Candidate.

## How Can I help the Candidate?

1. Share your experiences – Lead him or her closer to Christ by telling your candidate about your own Spiritual Journey
2. Spend time talking and listening – Help your candidate grow in understanding and acceptance of Christ and the teachings of his Church.
3. Pray for your Candidate – pray that he or she will not only come to know the faith, but also will encounter Christ while preparing to receive the Sacrament. As a sponsor, commit to lifting your candidate up in prayer every day.
4. Encourage him or her to grow in virtue and to set aside any habits that would prevent his or her soul from being fully open and ready to receive all the gifts God wants to give him or her through the sacrament of confirmation.

## What if I am unable to spend time with my Candidate?

Technology can be very helpful to connect you with your candidate. As a young person, your candidate probably has a smart phone, sends text messages, and uses social media on a daily basis. Take advantage of these media sources to communicate with him or her, even if your schedule requires such contacts to be brief.

A simple "I am praying for you today" text message can be a powerful reminder that you take your sponsorship seriously. This signals your candidate that you take him or her seriously which is the key.

Post a link to the upcoming Sunday's readings in a private message on your candidate's social media account (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, SnapChat), along with a thought provoking question about the readings or a few words of your own reflection on them. Do not overlook more traditional but very meaningful communication methods-a short letter or postcard with an inspirational or encouraging message is enough to make a big impact.

Why do these things? Such simple acts are both personal and targeted specifically at your candidate. Nearly all teenagers need this kind of personal interaction, and they will eagerly respond to it. Because you are the candidate's chosen sponsor (and not a parent, teacher, or some other authority figure), your candidate is less likely to resist or shrug off this kind of outreach from you. You have the potential to make a significant impact at this time in your candidate's life.

## Do I attend any Classes ? Fill out Forms?

**Yes you will need to Attend the Following Sessions. Please Arrive Early to Check in.**

TBD - Attend Class or Watch online with your Confirmadi

Tuesday May 11, 2021 - Confirmation Rehearsal, 7pm in the Church

Wednesday May 12, 2021 - Sacrament of Confirmation, 4:45pm Check In, 6pm Liturgy

**Yes you will need to turn in the following paperwork**

Sponsor Affidavit - Go or Call the parish that you are registered at and tell them that you are going to a sponsor for Confirmation and need an Affidavit. They will instruct you on the process during this time (COVID 19). You will need to fill out a form and Sign it, have the pastor or his representative sign it, and emboss it with the parish seal.

Give this form to your Confirmation teen and they will upload to the app and hold on to the original copy.

**Fill out & Return the Sponsor Affidavit by Oct 12, 2020**