

PLEASE READ QUALIFICATIONS OF SPONSOR

Qualifications for Confirmation Sponsors

The qualifications for a confirmation sponsor (Canon 893) are the same as those for **baptismal sponsor** (see below) plus:

- It is desirable that the one who undertook the role of sponsor at baptism be the sponsor for confirmation.
- A non-Catholic may NOT be a confirmation sponsor.
- **Parents, though they may NOT be the confirmation sponsor, may certainly present their children for confirmation as a proxy for the sponsor.**

Qualifications for Baptismal Sponsors

Canon 873 and 874 of the 1983 Code of Canon Law deal with issue of baptismal sponsors.

To be admitted to the role of sponsor, a person must:

- be designated by the one to be baptized, by the parents or the one who takes their place or, in their absence, by the pastor or minister and is to have the qualifications and intention of performing this role.

The candidate for Confirmation chooses the sponsor.

- have completed the sixteenth year, unless a different age has been established by the diocesan bishop or it seems to the pastor or minister that an exception is to be made for just cause:

For the parish of St. Francis of Assisi the age for the sponsor is at least 16 years of age.

- be a Catholic who has been confirmed and has already received the sacrament of the Most Holy Eucharist and leads a life in harmony with the faith and the role to be undertaken:

The sponsor is actively participating and living the Catholic faith through attending Mass and trying to live a lifestyle that professes the Gospels.

- not be bound by any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared:

The sponsor is in good standing with the Church. There are no canonical reasons impeding the sponsor from the receptions of the sacraments.

- not be the father or mother of the one to be baptized.

The father or mother may act as a proxy for the sponsor.

- A baptized person who belongs to a non-Catholic ecclesial community may not be admitted except as a witness to baptism and together with a Catholic sponsor.

The Confirmation sponsor must be Catholic.