

## Sponsor Certificates are due no later than Nov. 29<sup>th</sup> with all other candidate paperwork.

### Sponsor Information:

An individual sponsor must be selected. A sponsor must know the candidate and be able to help to him/her on his/her spiritual journey and share his/her own faith with the candidate. Ideally, it should be someone who has already been involved in the spiritual formation of the candidate (remote preparation) such as: godparent, catechist, or some other member of the local parish. This selection of a sponsor should be finalized at the beginning of the candidate's immediate preparation.

Pastors will determine if the sponsor chosen by the candidate is spiritually qualified for the office.

### *. A sponsor:*

- Must belong to the Catholic Church and be fully initiated, having received Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.
- Should be sufficiently mature in his/her faith commitment, and be actively expressing it within the Catholic Christian community by regular attendance at Mass.
- Must obtain a statement of eligibility from his/her pastor.
- May be either male or female for any candidate.
- May be the baptismal godparent. (This expresses more clearly the relationship between Baptism and Confirmation, and also makes the function of the sponsor more effective.)
- Must be reasonably knowledgeable of Church teachings.
- May be a delegate of the local Church (in the case of adults and adult converts.)
- May NOT be a parent of the person to be confirmed.

### *It is the function of the sponsor to:*

- Assist in the preparation for the sacrament, by helping the candidate integrate the teaching of Jesus into his/her daily living.
- Encourage the candidate by growing in a faith relationship with him/her.
- Accompany the candidate to special liturgies and preparation programs.
- Attend the Sponsor/Candidate Retreat - Sponsors and candidates are required to attend a (2 1/2 hr.) retreat
  
- Attend scheduled practice for candidates and Sponsors.
- Assist in determining the candidate's readiness for the sacrament
- Accompany the candidate and present him/her to the Minister of Confirmation.
- Help the confirmed person fulfill his/her baptismal promises faithfully under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

**+ Sponsor Certificates - All Sponsors, INCLUDING parishioners of St. Francis Cathedral, must submit a Certificate of Eligibility. This certificate is obtained through the sponsor's home parish rectory office. It is advisable to choose your sponsor early so that he/she has sufficient time to obtain the Certificate of Eligibility.**

Sponsors are to dress in an appropriate manner. They are to set an example of practical faith for the young people they are sponsoring. Formal Business Attire befitting the attendance at the sacrament is recommended (no low-cut, short dresses).