

Confirmation Session #1 – Make-up for September 24, 2012

Sponsor Selection

From your Bible, read Luke 4:16-22a.

(This is one of the Gospel options for the Confirmation Mass.)

1. What does this Gospel tell you about your selection of a sponsor for Confirmation and your responsibility as a Confirmed, fully initiated Catholic Christian?

Read the following Church requirements and guidelines for a sponsor.

Selection of a Sponsor

CODE OF CANON LAW -

http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG1104/_INDEX.HTM

BOOK IV - FUNCTION OF THE CHURCH (Cann. 834 - 848)

PART I. THE SACRAMENTS

TITLE II. THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

CHAPTER IV. **SPONSORS**

Can. 892 Insofar as possible, there is to be a sponsor for the person to be confirmed; the sponsor is to take care that the confirmed person behaves as a true witness of Christ and faithfully fulfills the obligations inherent in this sacrament.

Can. 893

§1. To perform the function of sponsor, a person must fulfill the conditions mentioned in **can. 874**.

§2. It is desirable to choose as sponsor the one who undertook the same function in baptism.

TITLE I. **BAPTISM** (Cann. 849 - 878)

CHAPTER IV. **SPONSORS**

Can. 872 Insofar as possible, a person to be baptized is to be given a sponsor who assists an adult in Christian initiation or together with the parents presents an infant for baptism. A sponsor also helps the baptized person to lead a Christian life in keeping with baptism and to fulfill faithfully the obligations inherent in it.

Can. 873 There is to be only one male sponsor or one female sponsor or one of each.

Can. 874 §1. To be permitted to take on the function of sponsor a person must:

1/ be designated by the one to be baptized, by the parents or the person who takes their place, or in their absence by the pastor or minister and have the aptitude and intention of fulfilling this function;

2/ have completed the sixteenth year of age, unless the diocesan bishop has established another age, or the pastor or minister has granted an exception for a just cause;

3/ be a Catholic who has been Confirmed and has already received the most holy sacrament of the Eucharist and who leads a life of faith in keeping with the function to be taken on;

4/ not be bound by any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared;

5/ not be the father or mother of the one to be baptized.

§2. A baptized person who belongs to a non-Catholic ecclesial community is not to participate except together with a Catholic sponsor and then only as a witness of the baptism.

Catechism of the Catholic Church -

http://www.vatican.va/archive/ccc_css/archive/catechism/p2s2c1a2.htm

PART TWO - THE CELEBRATION OF THE CHRISTIAN MYSTERY

SECTION TWO - THE 7 SACRAMENTS OF THE CHURCH

CHAPTER ONE - THE SACRAMENTS OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION

ARTICLE 2 - THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

1311 Candidates for Confirmation, as for Baptism, fittingly seek the spiritual help of a sponsor. To emphasize the unity of the two sacraments, it is appropriate that this be one of the baptismal godparents.

From the Ceremonial Guidelines for the Sacrament of Confirmation within the Mass sent from the office of the Archbishop of San Francisco

Sponsors

“It is desirable that the Godparent at Baptism be the sponsor at Confirmation to better express the relationship between Baptism and Confirmation. Parents cannot function in the role of sponsor at Confirmation.

Pastors will see that the sponsor, chosen by the candidate, is spiritually qualified for the office. The sponsor should be sufficiently mature for this role, belong to the Catholic Church and have been initiated in the Easter sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist. The sponsor should also be a person of faith, actively participating in the life of the Church, especially by receiving the Eucharist regularly.

The sponsor should be of an age and living proximity that will enable the sponsor to be present to the candidate as he/she grows in the life of faith. The custom of having proxy sponsors for someone who is and who will continue to be separated by long distances from the candidates is discouraged.

Ideally, the sponsor should have participated in the preparation of the candidate for Confirmation and be able to continue to be a sign and support of faith for the candidate.

The sponsor should be familiarized with the ceremony so that they can actively and comfortably participate.

From St. Catherine's

Sponsors are asked to attend Masses, rituals, some meetings, and rehearsals with candidates as noted on the Confirmation Calendar and are invited to volunteer and assist with activities or tasks noted on the Parent Participation Form.

Now read these 2

Sponsor Selection Dilemma Scenarios:

Jim's Uncle Jack was his godfather at Baptism. Uncle Jack is fun to be around and a good guy, easy to talk to. It's common for him to give of his time volunteering. A couple of years ago, he married a nice young woman at a nearby vineyard. He doesn't go to Mass much anymore, maybe only Christmas and funerals.

Emma's Auntie Jane goes to Mass every Sunday. She always remembers Emma's and her siblings birthdays with a nice gift. She works very hard and doesn't have time for volunteering. She believes charity begins at home and the poor should pull themselves up by their own bootstraps so she doesn't give to charity either.

2. Would either of the above 2 persons qualify as appropriate Sponsors for Confirmation (or Baptism)? If so, why? If not, why not? What would either or both need to do to be qualified?

Another thought

Your celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation and attaining the age of 16 yr. will technically qualify you to be a godparent for baptism or a sponsor for Confirmation.

3. Do you anticipate any challenges to your remaining qualified?

Reporting options for above topic #1:

- A. By appointment (ssftmk@aol.com), meet with Dr. Tom Kilbridge after 10:30 AM Mass in the church chapel. Be prepared to give oral presentation (informal and relaxed) responding to the 3 questions.
- B. Written report – type a one page report responding to the 3 questions above. Turn in to Silvia Chiesa or Dr. Tom Kilbridge.
(Have parents review oral presentation or read written report. Do not spend more than 1 ½ hours on the above make up.)

1st (of 3) Essay Assignment

(‘Theological Reflection’ refers to a process in which an individual or small group reflects on their personal or collective experience(s) in light of their faith and discipleship.)

Theological Reflection on how and why I chose _____ to be my sponsor for Confirmation.

How does the person I have chosen as my sponsor for Confirmation fulfill the requirements and qualifications?

Ask your sponsor to read, comment and sign this Sponsor Essay.