

## **THE ROLE OF THE SPONSOR**

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

Pastors will see that 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. For those sponsors married – their marriage must be valid and recognized by the Roman Catholic Church. They must be able to approach the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.
- should be sufficiently mature (usually beyond 16 years of age) in his/her faith commitment and be “actively” expressing it with the Christian community – attending Mass on a WEEKLY BASIS!
- must obtain a statement of eligibility from his/her pastor.
- 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 informed on current church teachings.
- may NOT be a parent

### **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.
- accompany the candidate to special liturgies and preparation programs.
- 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.