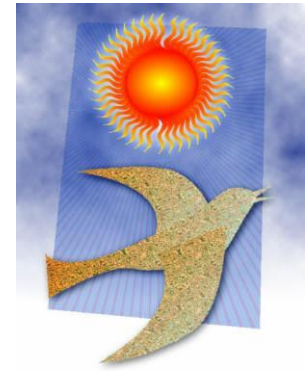


# Dear Sponsor,

A young candidate for Confirmation from St. Thomas of Villanova Church has chosen you to be his/her sponsor for this sacrament, which will be celebrated **at 10:00AM on April 25, 2020.**



In the early Church, sponsors played a very important role. A person often wanted to join the Church because of the personal example of some Christian. Usually that Christian became the interested person's sponsor.

The sponsor assisted the person, helping him/her understand the way of Jesus and the Church. The sponsor served as a model of what it meant to be a person committed to living the way of Jesus.

This is where you come in. Today, the Church recognizes the sponsor as the person who guides, models, and witnesses the Christian Faith for the candidate.

You are not expected to be all-knowing or perfect, but as a sponsor, here are a few qualities that your candidate can expect from you.

- ❖ A sponsor should be welcoming and inclusive. You need to be open and accepting of the candidate. Take the initiative in sharing your faith by discussion and example and this will contribute to a sense of belonging and comfort for the candidate.
- ❖ A sponsor should be willing to pray for and with the candidate. This enables you to be responsive to the presence of God in your life and especially in those moments you share with the candidate.
- ❖ As a sponsor, you need to be open to and respectful of the candidate's gifts, talents, hopes, fears, and doubts. Confidentiality in what is shared will enhance your relationship throughout this process.
- ❖ Finally, a sponsor should have a personal commitment to the responsibilities of sponsorship. Generosity with your time, patience and feelings will be expected of you. You will be called upon to be present at various activities. The candidate needs to see and experience you throughout this process. It is good for the candidate to see that your faith like his/hers is still developing and indeed struggling at times, to keep alive.

With these qualities in mind, please read the section about **RESPONSIBILITIES** carefully and pray about your acceptance of this role, which is a unique opportunity to rekindle your own faith as you share it with another in the months ahead.

Sincerely yours,

**The Confirmation Preparation Staff**

# Sponsor RESPONSIBILITIES

You are expected to:

- Provide the candidate with a *Sponsor Certificate of Eligibility* from your parish. This verifies that you meet the requirements\* listed below. (This is not necessary if you are a registered member at St. Thomas of Villanova parish.) **Due date: September 15, 2019.**
- Communicate regularly with your candidate during the coming months.
- Spend at least one hour a month in faith sharing with the candidate.
- Be willing to contact a member of the Confirmation Staff if you have any questions or concerns. (610 525-4801 ext. 205)
- Attend the practice listed below if able, if not a parent should sit in.
- Be present with your candidate at Confirmation.
- Continue to support the newly confirmed person as he/she continues on his/her faith journey.

\*The Catholic Church requires that the person to be confirmed is to have a *sponsor* whose “function is to take care that the person confirmed behaves as a true witness of Christ and faithfully fulfills the duties inherent in the sacrament.” Canon 892  
A person who would undertake the office of sponsor must fulfill the following conditions according to Church Law: Canon 874

- ❖ Be appointed by the candidate, the parent, or guardian
- ❖ Be not less than sixteen years of age
- ❖ Be a Catholic who has been Confirmed, received the Eucharist, and is living a Christian life to the best of their ability
- ❖ If married, be in a valid marriage according to Church law
- ❖ Not be either the mother or father of the candidate

## Schedule of Confirmation Events for the sponsor to attend if possible

**Wednesday            April 22, 2020**

**Confirmation Practice  
7:00 pm            Villanova Church  
Candidate and sponsor**

**Saturday                April 25, 2020**

**Celebration of the Sacrament  
of Confirmation  
10:00am Mass            Villanova Church**

## Sponsor's Prayer

Welcoming Lord, stand by me.

Give me *insight* to help the inquiring mind of the candidate,  
*hospitality* to accept and respect the gifts shared by him/her,  
*generosity* to share my gifts and *faith* to share the gift that is you.

Fill me with your Spirit, that I might lead, guide, sponsor and support this candidate. Keep me quiet Lord when I don't know what to say and allow me to let your Spirit do the talking instead. Amen