

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church

# Confirmation Sponsor Year 2

The sponsor plays an important role in Confirmation; they present the student to the Bishop assuring the candidate's sincerity and readiness for the sacrament, and they represent the entire community in welcoming the student into a deeper participatory-level of involvement in the church and community. **Sponsors assist in the Christian formation process; he/she provides ongoing encouragement and support for the student and should set up times to meet with the candidate to discuss questions relative to their varied stages of growth, before and after the celebration of the Rite of Confirmation.**

## **Confirmation Sponsor's Role and Requirements:**

- **Complete the "Confirmation Sponsor Application."** Include this "Application" with the following "Pastor Verification for a Confirmation Sponsor" to assist your Pastor in signing the Verification Form (your Pastor may not know you personally). **Return both forms to John Bruscia by November 6, 2016.** Sponsor qualifications/requirements are listed on page 2.
- **Return the completed and signed "Pastor Verification for a Confirmation Sponsor Form"** with the "Confirmation Sponsor Application" to John Bruscia, C/O of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, 1441 W. Balboa Blvd., Newport Beach, CA 92661, or e-mail as attachments to [jbruscia@olmc.net](mailto:jbruscia@olmc.net), or fax to John's attention, 949-673-3137; **Return both forms to John Bruscia by November 6, 2016.**
- **Be a "Practicing Catholic,"** providing a positive example and role model in sacramental participation and works of charity. Attend Mass together, or find other ways to practice your faith together through community service activities.
- **Assist in the preparation by engaging the candidate in thoughtful conversation regarding personal faith experience and its lived application.** Share your story; be a good listener!
- **Pray for the candidate.** Be a person the candidate can trust and confide in, someone who "journeys with them."
- **Participate in the "Confirmation Acceptance Ceremony,"** Sunday, November 6, 2016, 5 PM Mass; staying for dinner and meeting with candidate from 6-7:30 PM. If sponsor is not available this day, one of the candidate's parents will participate in the sponsor's place.
- **Participate in the "Confirmation Election Ceremony,"** Sunday, March 5, 2017 during our 5 PM Mass; staying for dinner and meeting with candidate from 6-7:30 PM. If the sponsor is not available on this date, one of the candidate's parents will participate in the sponsor's place.
- **Participate in the "Rite of Confirmation"**- The Confirmation Liturgy will take place at our 5 p.m. Mass at the end of April or beginning of May, 2017. The date is normally assigned in November. Students, with Sponsors, arrive at 3 PM for practice and procession. *If for some reason, you as sponsor, are unable to participate in the "Rite of Confirmation," have the family contact John Bruscia to designate a proxy to stand in your place.*
- **Follow-up after the Rite;** provide continued support and assistance to the Confirmati. Challenge and encourage them to continued growth and participation in a life of faith, love, and service!

## **Confirmation Sponsor Requirements:**

The sponsor for any candidate may be male or female, and is to be a sufficiently mature, practicing Catholic, who has him/herself been confirmed and has not been prohibited by [Canon] law from exercising the role of sponsor (see #4 below, i.e. if married, married in the Catholic Church). A baptismal sponsor is not only allowed, but is in fact desired as the Confirmation sponsor, so as to emphasize the relationship between Baptism and Confirmation [Canon 893, #2]. A parent may *not* act as a sponsor for his or her child, but may "present" the child for Confirmation as a "proxy" with another qualified person being the sponsor (grandparents may be sponsors) [Canon 893 with reference to Canon 874, #5].

### **See Canon Law sections below concerning confirmation sponsor requirements:**

**Can. 892** As far as possible the person to be confirmed is to have a sponsor. The sponsor's function is to take care that the person confirmed behaves as a true witness of Christ and faithfully fulfills the duties inherent in this sacrament.

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

1. Be designated by the one to be [Confirmed], 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 labor under a canonical penalty, whether imposed or declared;
5. not be either the father or the mother of the person [being] confirmed.