

SPONSOR/CANDIDATE MEETINGS: 2011-2012

The sponsor and candidate will meet for a minimum of four one-hour meetings (or the equivalent of four one-hour meetings) between the Rite of Enrollment and January 10, 2012. The role of the sponsor at these meetings is to represent the wider Catholic community to the candidate as someone who models commitment to personal prayer, community worship, and ministry expected of a mature Christian. The role of sponsor is not that of a teacher but of a fellow traveler on the Christian life-long journey. Just talk with him/her, share your faith story as appropriate, and how you live your faith.

*“In ways unknown to us, the candidates’ faith stories have led our candidates to this present place, this current opportunity, and Confirmation is an important step in that faith journey. **We must accept the candidates where they are, trusting in God’s wisdom and care** with the joyful anticipation of growing in faith together.” (Moser, Greg. “Gifted With the Spirit”, Coordinator’s Manual, Silver Burdett). Be encouraging and supportive; their questions are their gift to the Church.*

The sponsor will keep a record of the meetings on the form (pink page) in the sponsor packet and return the form to the parish by January 10, 2012.

Some Suggestions for Meetings; Please Note That We Are Very Flexible

(Note: please use prudence and thoughtful consideration to assess what might be considered appropriate or inappropriate interaction with your candidate.)

- (1) Join with other sponsors and candidates for your time together.
- (2) Attend part/all of the Good Shepherd or other local parish missions/special event. Our Parish Mission, ***One Heart – One Family***, is **Monday July 25-Wed, July 27**. Watch the ***Bulletin*** for additional information.
- (3) Borrow the videotape ***Confirmation—A Commitment to Life*** to view with your candidate or view together with another sponsor and candidate or other sponsors and candidates or parents. This outstanding video on Confirmation by Fr. Joe Kempf is specifically made for discussion with high school students. The packet includes the 57 minute videotape and discussion questions. Call Bette at 893-1837 to borrow. NOTE: Due to the number of candidates, LOAN TIME IS LIMITED TO ONE WEEK ONLY.
- (4) Watch a religious movie (available from video stores) together or as a group and discuss: [*Brother Sun-Sister Moon* (about St. Francis); *Jesus of Nazareth; A.D.* (begins where Jesus of Nazareth ends); *A Man for All Seasons* (about St. Thomas More); *The Ten Commandments*; *The Song of Bernadette*; *Romero* (true story of martyred Archbishop Romero—this video does include violence); *The Nativity Story*—there are many others]
- (5) Bring your candidate to a weekday, Wednesday evening, or holy day Mass followed by discussion at a pizza or other favorite food/ice cream place; join with other candidates and their sponsors.
- (6) **Talk about reconciliation and go with your candidate to celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation.**
- (7) Include your candidate in service you do either at Good Shepherd or elsewhere.
- (8) Meet at your house (with your family) and invite your candidate (or candidate and parents) to have dinner with your family.
- (9) Meet around sports or other activities your candidate is interested in.

Notes: --keep in contact with your candidate; at least monthly.
--send a birthday card, holy card, pertinent scripture verse, or “I am thinking of you” notes to your candidate
--include prayer that is meaningful to your candidate in the sessions; pray for your candidate every day and let him/her know you are doing this; request his/her prayers for you
--recommend every sponsor have a copy of **Catechism of the Catholic Church or the U.S. Catholic Catechism for Adults** (which can be purchased at any book store or online) and a bible.
--contact the DRE (Bette, 893-1837; scaringeb@gs.ptdiocese.org) with questions, or for ideas or resource material.