



ST. THOMAS AQUINAS YOUTH

ENCOUNTER JESUS - LIVE AS HIS DISCIPLE - BRING HIM TO OTHERS

Parents and teens

At your Baptism you were surrounded by people to support your spiritual growth in the faith. Your parents and Godparents stood in front of your family, friends, the Church, and community, publicly professing that they were going to help teach you to understand the Catholic Faith. They would bring you to Mass on Sundays, pray with you and so much more.

As you prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, the Church still wants you to know that you are not in this alone. Not only is the parish of St. Thomas Aquinas praying for you and providing support for you to be educated but also a select few have volunteered (Core) to be there every week to help your formation. The Church also wants you to choose a Sponsor too. A Sponsor is a type of mentor in the faith.

The invitation to be a sponsor is a great honor and responsibility. A "sponsor" is not just an honorary title; it is a calling. A call from God to be His living witness directly in the teen's life. With this honor comes great responsibility to guide and support them as they prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation and beyond. They are being called to be a Christian witness, friend, prayer warrior, and ally to the teen for the rest of their life.

Confirmation Sponsors have 3 primary Roles"

1. To assist the candidate in preparing for Confirmation
 - a. Spending time with them discussing the faith
 - b. Sharing their experiences of their own journey in the faith.
 - c. Ensuring the teen is making attending Sunday Mass
 - d. Praying with them and for them
 - e. Encouraging the teen to grow in virtue and building good faith habits
 - f. Attending required Confirmation sessions with the teen
 - Complete the Sponsor Outing with the Teen
 - Attend the Confirmation Rehearsal
2. To present the candidate for Confirmation
 - Being with them on the day they receive the sacrament of Confirmation
3. To help the confirmed person to live out their Catholic Faith
 - Their role goes on even after the teen receives the Sacrament

So, what are the qualifications to being a Sponsor?

A Sponsor must have the following Qualifications:

1. Be a practicing Catholic who is at least 16 years old.
2. Be registered in A Catholic Parish & Receive a letter of Affidavit signed and sealed by their parish.
3. Attend Mass Every Sunday and on Holy Days of Obligation
4. Go to Confession at least once a year, and receive Holy Communion at least once a year
5. Have Received the Sacrament of Confirmation at least once a year or when in "mortal sin"
6. If Married be married in the Catholic Church
7. Be a person who leads "A life of faith in keeping with the function to be taken on."
8. **Must be the same gender as the Candidate.**
9. **8. NOT BE** a parent of the Candidate. (sponsor Can't be the parent of the candidate)

Please also keep the following in mind:

- **The sponsor DOES NOT have to be a family member.**
- The sponsor **CAN NOT** be a parent
- Sponsor Must be the Same Gender as the teen.
- If the teen is in need of a sponsor, we can assign someone to them.
- The teen should be selecting their own sponsor with the assistance of the parents.
 - Parents DO NOT make the selection for them.

After you select a person to be your sponsor and they accept the following needs to happen.

- **The sponsor will go to their parish (were they are registered at) and will ask for a sponsor affidavit.**
- They will sign the affidavit and the parish rep will sign and stamp their seal on the paper.
- The affidavit will be given to the teen.
- The teen will upload the document (and keep the original in a safe space) through the Life Teen Connect Page

If you require further assistance please reach out to our Youth Ministry department via email at Lifeteen@stanm.org or call at 505-892-1511 ext 104, if there is no answer please leave a voicemail.