

Dear 2012 Confirmation Candidate,

Welcome to your final year in Confirmation preparation. By now you have been working toward the completion of the 20 required Confirmation service hours. This year in your religious study you will begin by reviewing what it means to be a Catholic and start your journey as a disciple of Christ.

The initial step in your preparation this year is to select your sponsor. Sponsors are active participants in your preparation to receive the sacrament of Confirmation so keep this in mind when choosing your sponsor. They will participate with you in a service project and share with you, in writing, their experiences as a Catholic. Consider the attached Required Work sheet when selecting a sponsor.

According to the Canon Law a Confirmation sponsor must meet the following criteria:

- Be at least 14 years of age
- Have received the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Communion & Confirmation)
- Not be a parent
- Be a practicing Catholic

While the first three requirements are self explanatory the fourth may need some clarification. A practicing Catholic is someone who attends mass regularly, on Sundays and Holy Days. They must be a registered member of a Roman Catholic Church. If married, their union must have been witnessed by a priest. If your choice of sponsor does not demonstrate these criteria it is not permissible for them to stand beside you on the day of your Confirmation.

After carefully selecting your sponsor give them the enclosed form to complete. *The Certificate & Guidelines for Sponsors at Confirmation* form must be filled out and signed by the sponsor's parish priest and stamped with the parish seal. **Please also remind them to complete the section of the form that asks for their home address and email.** After completion of the form, please have your sponsor return it to you so that you may return it to me **no later than December 4, 2011.** Later in December sponsors will receive an invitation to join you and your parents at the informational meeting scheduled for Sunday, January 29, 2012.

If you or your potential sponsor have any questions please do not hesitate to call me at 908-534-2319 ext. 18.

Please use the next few weeks to thoughtfully select someone who will spiritually support you in your faith journey. They will be a welcomed counselor in your life from this point forward.

Peace & warm wishes,

Nina Forestiere  
Sacramental Coordinator  
Our Lady of Lourdes