

WHAT IS A RCIA SPONSOR?

*As the Father has sent me, so I send you!
We share in the life of Christ by our baptism. By that same baptism:
-we are called to share that life with others
-we are empowered by the Spirit of God to do so.*

What is a RCIA Sponsor?

The Sponsor is a co-traveler in this journey of faith who commits himself or herself to accompany a Catechumen or RCIA Candidate along the way.

The Sponsor is a person who is willing to be a friend, witness, a guide for the Catechumen or Candidate.**according to the Rite.**

A Sponsor accompanies any candidate seeking admission as a catechumen. Sponsors are persons who have known and assisted the candidates and stand as witnesses to the candidates' moral character, faith, and intention. (RCIA 10)

- The Sponsor is often chosen as the godparent. **The rite continues...**
Godparents are person chosen by the candidates on the basis of example, good qualities, and friendship, delegated by the local Christian community, and approved by the priest. It is the responsibility of godparents to show the candidates how to practice the Gospel in personal and social life, to sustain the candidates in moments of hesitancy and anxiety, to bear witness and to guide the candidates in moments of hesitates' progress in the baptismal like. (RCIA 10)

What does a Sponsor do?

Some activities in relation to the candidates might be:

- participate in gatherings: Ask questions, encourage discussion
- invite them to Sunday liturgies, parish activities...come with them if possible.
- invite them over for coffee and talk.
- listen to them.
- pray with them about personal needs and concerns.
- share faith experiences
- encourage and affirm their growth in faith.
- introduce them to parish member.

What might Sponsors expect from the Catechumen or Candidate?

- Some anxiety or nervousness
- enthusiasm or hesitancy
- withdrawal from the program
- problem marriages.

What might Sponsors expect for themselves?

- renewal or deepening of their own faith relationship with God
- some good and lasting friendship
- a strong experience of community and belonging.

Sponsors Represents the Church

This may mean you will introduce the catechumen or candidate to other parishioners, to the activities of the church and to the organization of the community. The catechumen or candidate will probably catch the spirit of the community.

Sponsors Are Witnesses ...If you make that experience a constructive and hospitable one, the positive impression will be lasting. You help the individual to feel at home among Catholics by your support.

Sponsors Are Companions