

HANDOUT

What Is *Have Faith*?

Have Faith is a simple yet intensive resource to assist in the final preparation for Confirmation. It requires candidates to take on some the responsibility for preparation, without having to prepare alone.

Each candidate will receive a workbook that they are to complete on their own. The workbook consists of an active learning process featuring self-assessments, exercises, informational essays, reflection questions, and assignments. These will help each candidate gain a better view of their spiritual interests, confirm their desire to grow within the Catholic Church, and set some spiritual goals for life after Confirmation.

Sponsors play a central role in this program. Each sponsor will get the same workbook as the candidate and complete the same exercises. The workbooks are divided into three different parts, giving sponsors and candidates the opportunity to discuss their answers and insights at three different times. These conversations can take place over the phone, face to face, or via e-mail.

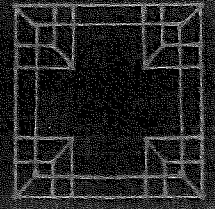
There are no meetings for sponsors to attend, so candidates are free to choose someone regardless of where they live. Therefore, candidates are asked to carefully select an adult sponsor who they see as an example of someone who lives the Catholic faith. The sponsor should also be someone who the candidate feels comfortable talking to, and who is willing to work on the required exercises and compare notes.

Throughout the process, each candidate will be developing a personal Spiritual Growth Plan (SGP). This will help the candidate:

- target a dimension of their spiritual life that they wish to further develop;
- identify Catholic knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors they wish to cultivate;
- establish spiritual goals they wish to pursue after Confirmation.

All candidates will gather for one large group meeting after completing their workbooks. In this meeting, they will further discuss what they have learned through the program, their questions, and their hopes for sustaining the Spirit beyond Confirmation.

Appendix One



The Role of the Sponsor

A confirmation sponsor is a person of faith who is acquainted with the candidate and takes a personal interest in the candidate's physical, emotional, and above all, spiritual development. As a friend or relative of the candidate, the sponsor should be present to the candidate as he or she walks the journey of faith.

Obviously, the confirmation sponsor must be a Catholic who has already been fully initiated, which means he or she has received the sacraments of baptism, confirmation, and Eucharist. The sponsor should be a person of faith and a person who practices his or her Catholic faith on a regular basis.

The sponsor should nurture the relationship with the candidate. This should be done first and foremost by providing positive witness to the faith. Then there are many things that sponsors and candidates can do together. They can attend Mass together, talk about faith, pray together, share phone calls, celebrate significant events, attend confirmation sessions, work on service projects together, occasionally go out to eat together. The sponsor is above all a support and spiritual guide for the candidate.

"This is what the Lord requires of you: to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God."

—Micah 6:8

Being a sponsor for confirmation is a great honor that comes with great responsibility. Candidates should be encouraged to select a sponsor who will be there for them and walk with them on their journey of faith.