



*"It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you..." John 15:16*

## **Welcome!**

You have been invited to sponsor a candidate for Confirmation, an invitation of great honor and responsibility. A "sponsor" is not just an honorary title; it is a calling. Your candidate has identified you as a living witness of faith in Jesus Christ and his Church. With this honor comes the responsibility to guide and support your candidate as he or she prepares for the Sacrament of Confirmation and beyond. You are called to be a Christian witness, friend, prayer warrior, and ally to your candidate for the rest of your life.

Enclosed you will find a booklet - a "**Sponsor's Guide**" which includes practical ideas for engaging your student, and frequently asked questions about the Catholic faith in an easy-to-use guide. I invite you to read through Part 1: An Introduction to Becoming a Confirmation Sponsor.

Over the next month or two you will read and then engage your candidate in Part 2: Four Important Conversations to have with your Candidate. Three of these conversations happen prior to the celebration of Confirmation and one happens afterwards. There are suggested discussion starters but make a plan now to check in with your candidate **each week** to see how they are doing. Texts, social media, phone calls, letters, and in-person are all suitable ways to communicate with your student. A simple way to do this is to ask "What's new with you?" and then offer to pray for them and whatever they have going on.

A few things to note:

- I don't have a date for the celebration of Confirmation yet, but when I do I'll be sure to let you know. Any protocols or expectations will also be updated shortly. I communicate primarily by email. I will copy parents and sponsors on emails.
- Please plan to attend an in-person Final Preparation session with your Candidate on Sunday, April 25<sup>th</sup>. We will meet in St. Paul of the Cross Church Hall, 31 Monroe St., Honeoye Falls, from 9am-12:30pm. This will include Mass and a rehearsal for the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- Any events that you cannot attend personally (including the celebration of the Sacrament) can be fulfilled by a proxy (a parent or other adult).

The most important and effective part of your sponsorship is **prayer**. Pray every day for your candidate and their family. Families are the heart of teaching and learning about our faith. They need you in their corner, praying for them and interceding on their behalf.

May God bless you on this journey.

Christine DeVito  
Director of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry  
Email: [Christine.devito@dor.org](mailto:Christine.devito@dor.org)  
Website: [www.saintagnesepaulrose.org](http://www.saintagnesepaulrose.org)  
Facebook: @stagnespaulrose