

September 2011

Dear Sponsors,

Your role as sponsor for one of our Saint Margaret Mary students is a role of great importance. I encourage you to stay in close contact with your young person during the preparation process as you help him/her to grow in faith through this journey. In order to be a sponsor you must be at least 16 years of age and fully initiated into the Catholic Church (must have received the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation) and be an active member in the Roman Catholic Church. – *Archdiocese of Louisville, Guidelines for Confirmation.*

At Saint Margaret Mary, the sponsor plays a committed role in the preparation of the one who chooses them:

- **Presence during preparation:** Sponsors actively invest time and energy as role models of what it is to be a mature Catholic, which is what the candidate hopes to become through the Sacrament of Confirmation. The best ways for sponsors to do this is to practice - and live - their Catholic faith in the presence of the young persons they are sponsoring. You do not have to have all of the answers. You are meant to serve as a mentor, and guide. This requires that you keep an open mind and listen to what your candidate has to say. Making the growing faith life of that young person a real priority is a necessity.
- **Confirmation preparation is a team effort.** The candidate prepares for the Sacrament through work, study and prayer with the guidance of a sponsor and the prayerful support of his/her family.
- **Service Project:** Candidates will perform service projects in a number of settings.
- **Witness to the Church:** The sponsor is required to send a letter to the Pastor stating the candidate's maturity and level of readiness for Confirmation. The sponsor may be asked to help the candidate prepare a letter he/she must write to the Archbishop, formally requesting the Sacrament.
- **Presence at Liturgy:** Being present with the candidate at the moment the Sacrament is given to him/her is a visible sign of support, both then and even beyond the Confirmation Mass.

Serving as a Sponsor for a Confirmation candidate is a real commitment of time and presence - the grace-filled rewards will present themselves over time in the life of the young candidate and the relationship you will have with him/her. If after reading the above requirements and expectations you feel you can answer the call to be a Sponsor please fill out the enclosed form and return it in the enclosed envelope to the Parish Office by as soon as possible. Confirmation this year will be held on Saturday March 24, 2012 with an evening of reflection and rehearsal on March 22, 2012. If I can help you in anyway as you "walk with" your candidate during this time, please contact me.

God Bless-

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