

# 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Packet - St. Joseph Parish - Cottleville

## **Your Confirmation Sponsor**

Confirmation candidates will choose a person who can travel with you on your journey to Christian maturity. This person should know you and be readily available to listen to your concerns and questions about your faith.

Your godparents would be a good choice for this role as you continue to live out your Baptismal calling. A close relative might be an appropriate choice if he or she lives within a reasonable distance. Other choices might be a neighbor, teacher, catechist or parishioner whom you admire and see often.

It is often a custom to ask a relative to be your sponsor as an honor to that relative. Be sure, however, that he or she is available to you during your time of preparation for Confirmation. Long distance relatives might find it inconvenient or impossible to be present for you.

At the time of Confirmation, your sponsor will stand by your side as you are anointed by the bishop. Then your sponsor will continue to be with you as you grow in faith and face the challenges of young adulthood.

**Canon Law #874** states that to be admitted to undertake the office of sponsor a person must:

1. Be appointed by the candidate for Confirmation or by the parents or whoever stands in their place.
2. Be no less than 16 years of age.
3. Be a Catholic who has been Confirmed and has received the Blessed Eucharist, and who lives a life of faith which befits the role to be undertaken.
4. Not labor under a canonical penalty (which would cause them not to be able to receive communion with you at Confirmation.)
5. Not be the mother or father of the person to be Confirmed.

## **Your Confirmation Name**

When you were born, your parents gifted you with a name. When you were Baptized, your parents presented you by that name to the Christian community. Now, at this important juncture of your life, you will choose a Confirmation name.

Choose the name of a saint who represents the kind of Christian that you would like to be. You might want to recommit yourself to your Baptismal name, since Confirmation is a continuation of our Baptismal calling. You may choose either a male or female saint regardless if you are a boy or a girl.

Whether you decide to choose a new name or reaffirm your Baptismal name, you will want to explore the life of the saint whose name you choose. Our faith heritage is rich with the stories of women and men who have been an inspiration and an example to us.

At the celebration of Confirmation, you will introduce yourself to the bishop using your Confirmation name.

## **Service Hours**

When we renew our Baptismal commitment at Confirmation we announce that the concerns of the parish, the community and our family are our concerns. The more we learn about the concerns and activities of our community, the better prepared we will be to take our place in that community and serve its members.

**Service Hours – (cont.)** When we reach out to others in service, we find that we are the ones who really receive. We receive Christ who lives in the people we serve. Service to others is one way of proving that we choose to live up to the meaning of the name Christian.

To prepare for a lifetime commitment to serve God's people, each Confirmation candidate will perform a minimum of 15 hours of service. These hours are to be divided: Parish (5) Family (5) Community (5) Of course these are only the minimum hours. We hope that students will choose to make service a consistent part of their Christian lifestyle.

1. **Parish Service Projects**

- a) Volunteer to work at the parish picnic or fall festival. (Watch the parish bulletin for contact person's number.)
- b) Work at Men's Club pancake breakfast. (Call Doug Hacker 477-1073)
- c) Volunteer to be a member of "Helping Hands". (Call Toni Delano 314-402-6532)
- d) Assist with Sunday nursery. (Call Scott & Janet Ortinau 939-4716)
- e) Assist with Sunday Pre-School of Religion. (Call Leslie Gallagher 441-0055 ext. 150)
- f) Straighten missals in pews after Sunday Mass.
- g) Volunteer at Knights of Columbus. (Call Tom Hutchison 936-1813)

2. **Community Service Projects**

- a) Pack boxes for the needy at Christmas. (Watch parish bulletin)
- b) Participate in clothing and food drives.
- c) Volunteer for school projects outside of school hours.
  - i) peer tutoring
  - ii) decorating for dances
  - iii) directing parents to classrooms for conferences
- d) Walk-a-thons and read-a-thons. (Watch parish bulletin and local papers)
- e) Volunteer for neighborhood association projects.
- f) Visit a sick or elderly relative or friend.
- g) Distribute cards or gifts to a local nursing home.
- h) Participate in Youth Group projects (Contact our Youth Ministry team)
- i) Rake leaves or shovel snow for an older neighbor.
- j) Send a greeting to a lonely person.
- k) Watch the "Volunteer" section of local newspapers for more ideas.

3. **Family Service Projects**

- a) Take responsibility for planning a "family fun day".
- b) Surprise a family member for a week and perform for that person all the kind acts you can think of. Do not tell the person.
- c) Bring homework to a sick brother or sister and help them with it.
- d) Read to a younger brother or sister.
- e) Give parents a night out by babysitting and cleaning up the house.
- f) Do yard work without being asked.

**Use your own imagination!**

These are only a few ideas. Being a servant to others means always being aware of the needs of other people. Keep your eyes and your heart open, and the opportunities for service will surely present themselves.

**Start Now!**

Service hours are not optional. They are a requirement for Confirmation. Summer vacation is a great time to begin logging your service hours.