

THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION IN THE DIOCESE OF PUEBLO

To receive confirmation licitly outside the danger of death requires that a person who has the use of reason be suitably instructed, properly disposed, and able to renew the baptismal promises. Parents and pastors of souls, especially pastors of parishes, are to take care that the faithful are properly instructed to receive the sacrament and come to it at the appropriate time. The sacrament of confirmation is to be conferred on the faithful at about the age of discretion unless the conference of bishops has determined another age, or there is danger of death, or in the judgment of the minister a grave cause suggests otherwise. (*Canons 889-890; see also 879-896*)

Preparation for Confirmation should aim at leading the Christian toward a more intimate union with Christ and a more lively familiarity with the Holy Spirit - his actions, his gifts, and his biddings - in order to be more capable of assuming the apostolic responsibilities of Christian life. To this end catechesis for Confirmation should strive to awaken a sense of belonging to the Church of Jesus Christ, the universal Church as well as the parish community. The latter bears special responsibility for the preparation of confirmands. (*Catechism 1309; see also 1285-1321*)

For guidance on who can confer Confirmation see Confirmation Question number 6 in the FAQs.

I, _____, understand that the following indications are necessary to show I am ready to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Signed: _____ Date: _____

- 1. **Valid Baptism Certificate**
- 2. Consistent Mass attendance on Sundays & Holy Days
- 3. Regular Confession (*or at least once before receiving the Sacrament*)
- 4. Daily Prayer
- 5. Retreat Experience
- 6. **Completed Formation** (N.B. in a group setting is preferred, but not mandatory*)
Recommended: Chosen (Ascension Press); Decision Point (Dynamic Catholic); YDisciple Confirmation (formed.org)
- 7. **Letter of Petition in the candidate's own writing****
 - a.) Demonstrating an understanding of the Sacrament (*i.e. based on formation content*)
 - b.) Expressing desire and intent to receive the Sacrament
 - c.) Committing to continue living the Catholic Faith
 - d.) Understanding of spiritual gifts, vocational discernment, & charitable outreach
 - e.) The name of the saint chosen
 - f.) The name(s) of the qualified sponsor
 - g.) The names of other people who will help support the candidate in their journey
 - h.) A Plan of Life (for ongoing Sunday Mass, daily prayer, and regular confession)
- 8. **Discernment Interview with Pastor and Sponsor*****

* If formation is not completed in a group setting, the candidate will provide one paragraph on each section of the formation program that is used. This paragraph should demonstrate an understanding of the material covered and an indication of how it applies in living a life of discipleship.

** The letter should be addressed to the bishop but given to the pastor in time for him to review it and forward it to the bishop at least 2 weeks before the Confirmation Mass.

*** This discernment interview will focus on the candidate's lived relationship with Jesus and disposition to receive the sacrament. This could be accomplished in the most part by the candidate telling the story of his/her relationship with Jesus up to this point in his/her life.

We, the undersigned, acknowledge the above indications to be present and accounted for:

Pastor: _____ [Catechist (*if applicable*): _____]

Parent(s): _____ Sponsor(s): _____

Candidate: _____

The ceremony will take place in _____ (*church*) on _____ (*date*) at _____ (*time*).

The Sacrament has been properly recorded and notification sent to the parish of Baptism.

GODPARENTS AND SPONSORS IN THE DIOCESE OF PUEBLO

Baptism Sponsors (Godparents)

Can. 872 Insofar as possible, a person to be baptized is to be given a sponsor who assists an adult in Christian initiation or together with the parents presents an infant for baptism. A sponsor also helps the baptized person to lead a Christian life in keeping with baptism and to fulfill faithfully the obligations inherent in it.

Can. 873 There is to be only one male sponsor or one female sponsor or one of each.

Can. 874 §1. To be permitted to take on the function of sponsor a person must:

- 1/ be designated by the one to be baptized, by the parents or the person who takes their place, or in their absence by the pastor or minister and have the aptitude and intention of fulfilling this function;
- 2/ have completed the sixteenth year of age, unless the diocesan bishop has established another age, or the pastor or minister has granted an exception for a just cause;
- 3/ be a Catholic who has been confirmed and has already received the most holy sacrament of the Eucharist and who leads a life of faith in keeping with the function to be taken on;
- 4/ not be bound by any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared;
- 5/ not be the father or mother of the one to be baptized.

§2. A baptized person who belongs to a non-Catholic ecclesial community is not to participate except together with a Catholic sponsor and then only as a witness of the baptism.

Confirmation Sponsors

Can. 892 Insofar as possible, there is to be a sponsor for the person to be confirmed; the sponsor is to take care that the confirmed person behaves as a true witness of Christ and faithfully fulfills the obligations inherent in this sacrament.

Can. 893 §1. To perform the function of sponsor, a person must fulfill the conditions mentioned in can. 874.

§2. It is desirable to choose as sponsor the one who undertook the same function in baptism.

I, _____, understand that the following indications are necessary to show I am ready to fulfill the role of Godparent/Sponsor. Signed: _____ Date: _____

1. **Valid Recent (within 6 months) Baptism Certificate***
2. Have been designated as sponsor by the candidate (or by parents/guardians or by pastor/minister according to circumstance)
3. Am 16 years old or older, am not bound by canonical penalty, and am not the father or mother of the candidate
4. Have received Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation
5. Lead a life in keeping with the function to be taken on, namely:
- a. Have a relationship with Jesus Christ as His disciple
 - b. Consistent Mass attendance on Sundays & Holy Days
 - c. Regular Confession
 - d. Daily Prayer
 - e. If married, my marriage is recognized as valid by the Catholic Church.**
 - f. If not married, I am not living conjugally with someone.***
- ** N.B. – If the couple is in marriage preparation in the Catholic Church and has a date set for their wedding through the Church, the pastor may, at his discretion, make an exception and allow them to become Godparent/Sponsors.
6. Intend to fulfill the functions of a Godparent/Sponsor by:
- a. Praying for my Godchild/Sponsee
 - b. Setting a good example of a life of discipleship
 - c. If Godparent to a minor child, assisting the parents in their duty of raising the child in the Faith.
 - d. If Sponsor for Confirmation, taking care that the confirmed person behaves as a true witness of Christ and faithfully fulfills the obligations inherent in this sacrament

* This Baptism Certificate should be obtained from the parish where the potential Godparent/Sponsor was Baptized and should include any notations that are found in the Baptism Register.

We, the undersigned, acknowledge the above indications to be present and accounted for:

Pastor: _____

Candidate (if 7 or older): _____

Parent(s): _____

Sponsor: _____