

Summer with my Sponsor!

To the Sponsor: You are a mentor and a role model in spiritual development, however nobody expects you to be perfect because none of us are. You are a companion on the journey. Be sincere and be real. Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. If you do not know the answer to a question, find a [Catechism of the Catholic Church \(vatican.va\)](http://www.vatican.va) and learn authentic Catholic teachings together and discuss what the two of you have learned and your experiences surrounding that teaching. Remember, Jesus chose simple fisherman to preach the Gospel, if you strive to model an inquisitive, sincere, and authentic faith in humility, patience, prayer, and love, you will succeed and it will be a rewarding experience for both you and your Confirmand.

To the Confirmand: We have been saying, “begin with the end in mind”, but what does the end look like? Imagine that you find an old mirror, the kind that you hold in your hand. The silver is mostly gone now, and it may be distorted or dirty. As we look at it, we still see glimpses of clarity amid the distortion. If this were the only mirror that we had, we would have only a vague view of what we looked like. Faith is a bit like that, we see glimpses of clarity of what God is like. Maybe we couldn’t handle looking at God directly right now, but when our life’s journey is over, we will see him perfectly, as we are fully seen. There will be no hiding blemishes on that day, and the glory of God will be revealed to us. As we continue on our life journey, it is a bit like polishing that old mirror. We see more and more, and with the power of the Holy Spirit, we gain wisdom and understanding. We cleanse our soul of all of that isn’t presentable to God. Your sponsor is a bit further along on that journey, but they have not yet arrived either. You are companions on the way. Fun fact: Christianity was originally called The Way. Your sponsor will probably be a bit nervous at first, so be patient with them, learn together and strengthen each other for the journey. When you receive the Holy Spirit in Confirmation, they will place their hand on your shoulder; get to know your sponsor this summer so that it isn’t the hand of a stranger.

Plan at least five sponsor-confirmand meetings between now and Labor Day. You can keep track of meeting times on the back of this sheet. Meetings can include:

- **Conversations.** Conversations are preferably in person but over the phone or video conference if necessary due to physical distance. The conversations should include, at a minimum, the subjects shown on the reverse side of this paper. Take notes, pictures, videos or other ways to memorialize these conversations for presentation to your confirmation teacher. The point is to capture thoughts, ideas or settings, not the entire conversation.
- **Activities.** With the approval and supervision of parents, do some activities together such as the following suggestions, but you may have other ideas. For each, take notes, pictures, short videos, sketches, or use some other way to remember these activities for presentation to your confirmation teacher. You may wish to keep a scrap book, a collage, or a digital collection. Whatever way you chose to remember, it is required that you present these to your teacher, so have them ready right after Labor Day.
 - Visit the sponsor’s childhood church for mass or some other event. Talk about your thoughts receiving the sacraments then and your thoughts now. Learn more about the statuary or paintings that are featured in that church. Try to see it from a new perspective.
 - Visit a shrine, monastery, or other historic church. View statuary or icons and discuss the meaning behind them. The sponsor should do some research first about the figures and events which are depicted in art so that they can discuss it with the confirmand.
 - Go to confession one after the other, especially if it has been some time since you last went.
 - Meet for lunch. Preferably, the Confirmand could make lunch for their sponsor, or they could do it together.
 - Bake bread together.
 - Go fishing together.
 - Volunteer together at some place that serves people in need.
 - Pray the rosary together. Meditate on what it might have been like to be present at the events described in the mysteries and describe your thoughts to each other. Here is a resource: [The Mysteries of the Rosary - Prayers - Catholic Online](#)

To the Parents: You are responsible for the safety of your child during this process. This includes knowing what your child and their sponsor are doing and supervising as appropriate.

Questions for the confirmand:

- What feeling do you have about being confirmed? Excitement? Doubt? Joy? Explain.
- What kind of support would you like from your sponsor?
- Why did you pick me to be your sponsor?

Questions for your sponsor:

- How old were you when you were confirmed?
- Who did you choose to be your confirmation sponsor? What were the reasons for choosing this person?
- Why did you choose to be confirmed?
- How has the Holy Spirit guided you in your life?
- What is one piece of advice that you could give me about growing spiritually?

Questions for both sponsor and confirmand:

- Who did you pick for your confirmation name/saint? What is it about that saint that inspired you?
- Do you have a favorite saint? What is it about that person that is meaningful to you?
- What do you like most about being Catholic?
- What is your favorite sacrament? Why?
- How do you pray? Where do you pray?
- What is your favorite prayer? Why?
- Have you ever prayed for a special intention that God answered? What was it? Did it end up being a blessing?
- Have you ever prayed for something that didn't seem to be answered, or answered in a way that you didn't expect?
- Do you read the Bible? What is your favorite story, verse, or book of the Bible? Why?
- Tell me what you like about going to mass.

- The *Fruits of the Spirit* are:
Peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, love, joy and self-control.
 - If you could have an extra outpouring of just one fruit of the Spirit, what would it be and why?

- The *Gifts of the Spirit* are:
Wisdom, understanding, counsel (ability to make decisions); fortitude (strength of will); knowledge (an enlightened mind); piety (willingness to love and serve God); Fear of the Lord (the ability to respect God's power and majesty).
 - If you could have an extra outpouring of just one gift of the Spirit, what would it be and why?

- Have you ever experienced God's help and known for sure that it was God who helped you out?

When we met.	Where we met and what we did.