

# RCIA SPONSOR QUALIFICATIONS

## What is a Sponsor?

If you decide to enter the formal process of becoming Catholic you will have a sponsor, someone who journeys with you during the RCIA process. Your sponsor is someone who can be personally available to you to discuss and process your experience. When choosing a sponsor it is preferable to have someone who lives in the area and, if possible, attends classes with you. Please consult the requirements below and the recommended traits to the right when choosing your sponsor.

## Requirements of a Sponsor

In order to be a sponsor the person must:

- be at least 17 years old
- have received the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation and
- live a life in harmony with the Catholic faith.
- If the person is married, they must be in a valid marriage.
- cannot be the parent of the candidate nor a spouse or fiancé.
- must provide a sealed copy of his/her baptismal certificate from his/her parish
- must provide a letter from his/her parish stating that s/he has received all sacraments of Baptism, Holy Eucharist and Confirmation and is a practicing Catholic (Sponsor Certificate)
- must be willing and able to attend all scheduled Rites with the Catechumen/Candidate.

## Traits of a Good Sponsor

**Shares the Faith:** lives the Catholic faith with integrity and through their actions.

**Prayerful:** knows the importance of an active prayer life and will pray for you and may even teach you how to pray.

**Good Listener:** willing to listen to you and respects your privacy.

**Informed and Involved:** Demonstrates their commitment by being active in the parish and knows what's going on in the Church and in the world, and willing to attend sessions with you.

**Willing to Challenge:** Able to be honest with you and hold you accountable to your RCIA commitment looking out for your spiritual well-being and interest.