

WHAT IS A SPONSOR?

A sponsor is one who has made a three-day Catholic Journey Experience Weekend, is familiar with the Catholic Journey methodology, and knows someone who is interested in participating in the Catholic Journey Experience.

WHY SPONSOR SOMEONE FOR A CATHOLIC JOURNEY?

As a Catholic Journeyer, we learned that each of us must go forth as apostles and proclaim the gospel. We can no longer be passive and hope the world changes. We sponsor candidates to become involved in the life of the Catholic Church by ongoing formation in the faith which is available by continued participation in the Catholic Journey movement. The transformation of individuals in the end is the tool to bring about a change in the world.

WHO SHOULD I SPONSOR?

Individuals who are seeking a deeper understanding of and commitment to their faith and their role as Catholic laity should be considered as candidates. Other people to consider as candidates are fallen-away Catholics, non-Catholics of other Christian denominations, and those of non-Christian faith or no faith. The ideal candidate is open and desires to know more about and understand the basis of Catholic faith and spirituality as lived out in everyday life. Ideal candidates hunger for a spiritual direction to live life, and the weekend encourages them on their journey to living the Christian life. Please note: The Catholic Journey does not recruit people who have emotional problems or have active drinking, drug, or moral issues. There are other programs designed to address those needs.

WHAT ARE THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF A SPONSOR?

1. Pray, pray, pray, and pray some more. Talk to God about the person before you talk to the person about God. Continue to pray for the candidate: before the weekend, during the weekend, and after the weekend.
2. Discuss the Catholic Journey Experience method, emphasizing that the weekend begins an ongoing journey to being fully Catholic. Answer all questions about the weekend. There is no need to be secretive about any part of the event.
3. Provide support after the Journey weekend. This cannot be over-emphasized! As a sponsor you have a commitment to the candidate to ensure they have active Christian support. Do not sponsor more than one candidate for each weekend. You cannot do an adequate job for more than one person.
4. Be a friend to your candidate and get to know them better. If they are married, get to know their spouse. You might find that the spouse would also make a good candidate. Be a consultant to the team or deanery about your candidate.
5. Obtain Support Letters from family and friends after speaking with your candidate. Write Support Letters yourself. No gifts or flowers, please. Serve the candidate: arrange or provide a ride to the weekend; help out the candidate's family while the candidate is at the Journey weekend.

6. Be active in your parish. Set a good example, and your candidate is likely to become active as well. Work with your parish priest and staff, and model a Christian example at all times. Spark the desire for God in the candidate, and help it grow.
7. Advise the candidate about the expense of the weekend. There is a Diocesan application fee and an additional weekend fee. Some sponsors pay the application fee for their candidate.
8. Get a picture of the candidate for our weekend prayer board, we are hoping this makes it easier to remember names and connect with each candidate.
9. Help complete the candidate application.
10. Please make a file for the team to handout to each candidate on Sunday before closing. This file will help with the question: Can the Journey Continue? Include resources from their church, bible study information that you think they might be interested in, and anything else you feel will help them to deepen their relationship with the Lord. If the candidate does not attend church, you can use information from your church or another church close to their home. If this is the case, plan on inviting them to church in the near future.
11. Sign up for the prayer chain if possible.
12. Be present at the Closing for the presentation of the cross. Encourage family members to attend the Closing.
13. Explain the Eucharistic Guidelines.

DIOCESAN EUCHARISTIC POLICY

AT A CATHOLIC MASS WHO MAY RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION?

We believe that the Risen Christ is really present in the bread and wine of communion, so to receive Holy Communion is to eat and drink the Body and Blood of the Risen Christ. It also expresses a deliberate union (communion) with the Catholic Church.

Active members of the Catholic Church, that is, those who participate *regularly* in Sunday Mass, in their home parish, receive communion - the Bread of Life and the Cup of Eternal Salvation.

Baptized fellow Christians: Catholics believe that the celebration of the Eucharist (Mass) is a sign of the reality of the oneness of faith, life and worship. Members of Christian Churches with whom the Catholic Church is not fully united, ordinarily do not receive communion at a Catholic Mass (as Catholics do not receive communion in other Christian Churches). Eucharistic sharing in exceptional circumstances requires permission of the priest.

For persons of other faiths: Those of faith traditions other than the Christian faith, do not receive Communion. With them we pray for the peace and unity of the human family.

However, those who may not receive Communion are invited and welcomed to come forward for a blessing to receive Christ in a spiritual Communion with us. Please cross your arms across your chest, and the Eucharistic Minister will give you a blessing.