

CONFIRMATION GUIDELINES CODE OF CANON LAW

CHOOSING A CONFIRMATION NAME:

Canon 855: Parents, sponsors, and the pastor are to take care that a name foreign to Christian sensibility is not given.

While the preference for a Christian name continues, any name can be given, as long as it is not offensive to Christian belief. Preferably, "Christian names," that is names of saints or names derived from Christian virtues (Faith, Constance, Joy, etc.) can be used.

OBLIGATION OF CONFIRMATION:

Canon 890 - The faithful are obliged to receive this sacrament at the proper time. Parents and pastors of souls, especially pastors of parishes, are to take that the faithful are properly instructed to receive the sacrament and come to it at the appropriate time.

REQUIREMENTS FOR SPONSORS:

Canon 893-2: It is desirable to choose as sponsor the one who undertook the same function in baptism. *The confirmandi may choose someone else.*

Canon 894: Parents are not allowed to be sponsors.

Canon 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.

As a rule, there should be a sponsor for each of those to be confirmed. These sponsors bring the candidate to receive the sacrament, present them to the minister for the anointing, and will later help them to fulfill their baptismal promises faithfully under the influence of the Holy Spirit whom they have received.

The sponsors must be Confirmed, practicing Catholic, 16 years of age, no canonical penalties, such as invalid marriage, etc.

Proxy must also be Confirmed, practicing Catholic at least 16 years of age, no canonical penalties.

ONE MONTH PRIOR:

a. Each candidate is to write a letter (typed or clearly hand-written, to the Archbishop with the following information or ideas:

- 1) Why I want to be Confirmed.
- 2) What the Holy Spirit means to me?

- 3) Why I need to Holy Spirit?
- 4) How I am preparing for Confirmation?
- 5) Why I chose my Confirmation Name/Saint?
- 6) Why I chose my sponsor?
- 7) What I hope will be the result of my receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation - how it will affect and or change my life as a Catholic?

b. This letter is due at the _____ meeting in _____ for review. Then the student's letter is to be given to your Pastor, who will mail it to the Archbishop **ONE MONTH** prior to.