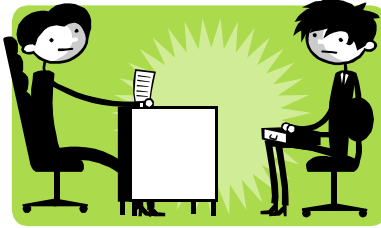


## Sponsor Meeting #1: Interviewing Your Confirmation Sponsor



Now that you have chosen your sponsor, it is time to spend a little more time with him/her to really get to know more about his/her faith journey. After all, the life-long role of your sponsor is to walk with you and support you on your own faith journey! You may find that you already know a lot or that there is a lot that you can learn!

Sometime during the summer, please set up a time to meet with your sponsor to “interview” him/her. It would be **best** to meet with your sponsor in person, but if this is not possible, because your sponsor lives out of town, you can interview your sponsor by phone or by email (last resort!) You can meet at your house or your sponsor’s house; you could meet for breakfast, lunch, or dinner; you could go for a walk together. **BE CREATIVE!**

You should plan to meet with your sponsor for **at least one hour** for this meeting. But feel free to meet for as long as you would like or multiple times! **You should meet with your sponsor at least once before September 14<sup>th</sup>!**

Although you will be asking your sponsor questions in the format of an interview, your meeting should really be a discussion, with you adding your own insights and thoughts to the conversation. **AND YOU NEED TO INVITE YOUR SPONSOR TO ASK YOU SOME QUESTIONS TOO!** (Your sponsor can ask you questions from the list on the next page or he/she can ask some of his/her own.) You are also welcome to ask your sponsor a question that is not included in the list! The questions are there to guide your discussion. **You do not need to get through all of the questions, but feel free to do so!**

- ✦ **Start your meeting by praying together!**
- ✦ **At the end of your meeting, write your name and the date at the top of page 4. Write your sponsor’s name and then have your sponsor sign it.**
- ✦ **You will need to write short answers to the reflection questions on page 4 sometime after meeting with your sponsor (NOT while you are meeting with your sponsor).**

**YOU WILL TURN IN PAGE 4 OF THIS PACKET IN YOUR BROWN ENVELOPE AT OUR SEPTEMBER 14<sup>th</sup> SPIRIT NIGHT!**



## *Twenty Questions to Ask Your Confirmation Sponsor*

1. How did you become Catholic? Were you baptized when you were a baby or did you become Catholic as an adult through the RCIA program? Tell me about how you first learned about your faith, whether you were a child or an adult.
2. As a Catholic, what makes you different from other Christians?
3. How do you picture the Holy Spirit? What images come to mind? When or how have you experienced the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life?
4. What name did you choose for your Confirmation name and why?
5. Do you have a favorite saint (or favorite saints)? Why is he/she your favorite? What is there about his/her life that has helped you on your faith journey?
6. How do you define the word “holy”? Do you know people in your life that you would describe as “holy”? Do you think anyone describes you as “holy”? How does that make you feel? What challenges do you face when you are trying to live a life of holiness?
7. Tell me about an experience in your life when it was difficult for you to be Catholic- perhaps a time when you were ridiculed because of your faith or a time when you struggled to believe in the teachings of your Catholic faith. What did you do to “keep your faith” or find answers to your questions during these times.
8. In what ways do you feel that celebrating the Eucharist (the Mass) every week (or maybe every day) strengthens and nourishes you to live as a Catholic? Did you ever have a time when you did not like going to Mass? Do you like going to Mass now? What do you think caused the change?
9. What is your understanding of what it means “to sin”? What does “forgiveness” mean to you? What do you do when you find it very difficult to forgive someone who has hurt you? What do you do when you need to ask forgiveness from someone you have hurt?
10. One very special aspect of our Catholic faith is the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Tell me about your own feelings and thoughts about and experiences with this Sacrament. Is it difficult for you to celebrate this Sacrament or was there a time when it was? What kind of preparations do you find helpful before you celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation?

11. How do you pray? Do you have a favorite place to pray or a favorite time to pray? Do you ever find it difficult to pray? When you pray, who do you usually pray to: God, Jesus, The Holy Spirit, Mary, a particular saint? Who or what do you usually pray for?
12. Do you regularly participate in service projects or volunteer opportunities at your parish, work, or in your neighborhood? Describe what you do and how it impacts your life.
13. How would you answer someone who told you that “Catholics worship Mary”? Who do you turn to or what resources do you use when you find that you do not know an answer to a question about your faith?
14. Have you ever had a time in your life when you really felt close to God? Tell me about it.
15. Have you ever had a time in your life when you really struggled to believe in God. Tell me about it and how you kept your faith in the end.
16. Who has been a good role model for you to live according to your Catholic faith? What has he/she taught you or shown you? How has he/she deepened your faith?
17. In what ways do you think you still need to grow in your Catholic faith?
18. What is your favorite Scripture passage, verse or story? Tell me why.
19. Through the Sacrament of Confirmation, the gifts we first received at our Baptism:
 

Wisdom	Understanding
Right Judgment (Counsel)	Courage (Fortitude)
Knowledge	Reverence (Piety)
Wonder and Awe (Fear of the Lord)	

 are strengthened and increased within each of us. These seven special gifts represent all of the gifts and blessings that God gives us to lead a good and holy life. They are special graces that are given to us through the Holy Spirit to enable us to respond to God’s call to holiness.  
 Reflecting back on your life experiences and decisions, which gifts have you used a lot? Which gift do you need to use more?
20. What do you think is one of the greatest challenges to being Catholic? What is the best thing about being Catholic?

***Don’t forget to ask any of your own questions!  
 AND REMEMBER- Your sponsor should ask you a few too!***

**St. Raphael Confirmation 2012**

**Sponsor Meeting #1 Form**

*This form must be completed and turned in at our first Spirit Night on September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011!*

Confirmation Candidate's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print first and last name)

Date Sponsor Meeting #1 Occurred: \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

\* If the interview took place by phone or email, parent may sign for sponsor.

**DIRECTIONS:**

*Sometime after meeting with your sponsor, take a few minutes to reflect on your discussion and write brief answers to questions 1 and 2. Please take the time to answer question 3, but you do not need to write anything!*

1. What was one thing that you learned about your sponsor during your meeting?

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2. Write about one story or experience that your sponsor shared that you felt showed that he/she was truly strengthened by the Holy Spirit through Confirmation to live a life of holiness.

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3. Did you make a good choice of who you asked to serve as your Confirmation sponsor? If you are not sure if you did, pray about it, talk to your parents, and feel free to talk to Amy or your small group leader about your decision and where to go from here.

## Sponsor Meeting #2: Service Project with Your Sponsor



By our Baptism, we are called to serve others in need, to reach out to the poor, the vulnerable, the needy, the lonely, and the forgotten and to promote justice for each and every human life. Our participation in efforts of peace, service and justice is putting our faith into action! **We are doing what we profess we believe!**

Our Church believes that serving one another is such a vital part of who we are as Catholics that she has declared *The Seven Major Themes of Catholic Social Teaching* to guide us in our efforts to meet the needs of each other and of all human beings. These teachings summarize how we are called to live and give us direction for the decisions that we make throughout our lives!

### Directions for Sponsor Meeting #2:

- ✦ Confirmation Candidate should read through this entire packet! Contact Amy with any questions!
- ✦ Contact your sponsor to describe the requirements for this meeting, discuss possibilities for your service project and decide on possible dates/times to complete the service project. **You and your sponsor must complete at least one service project sometime during September – December.** (You don't have to do one each month, although that would be awesome!)
- ✦ Read over the *Guidelines for Choosing a Service Project* (found on page 3 of this packet). If you have any questions about "what counts" for this service project, please contact Amy at 440-871-1100 or at [alashutka@saintraphaelparish.com](mailto:alashutka@saintraphaelparish.com).
- ✦ **Before you and your sponsor decide on what you will do for your service project, please read over *The Seven Major Themes of Catholic Social Teaching* (found on page 2 of this packet) together and discuss how you already live these out or where you are both called to do more!**
- ✦ Pray together before doing your project.
- ✦ **When you have finished your service project, complete page 4 of this packet with your sponsor! (You will turn in the Sponsor Meeting #3 Form at Spirit Night #4 on January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012)**

# ***The Seven Major Themes of Catholic Social Teaching***

(Adapted from *Being Catholic in the World: An Introduction to Catholic Social Teaching*, p. 7. Center for Ministry Development, 2006)

Here is a brief overview of the seven major themes.

- 1) **The Life and Dignity of the Human Person:** As Catholics, we believe that we are all created in the image and likeness of God and because of this fact, every single human life is sacred! Nothing any of us does can take away this dignity! We are all children of God!
- 2) **The Call to Family, Community, and Participation:** We believe in a Trinitarian God (one God, three persons). These three persons of God are constantly in relationships with one another. So, since we are created in the image and likeness of God, we too need to be in relationships and we need to create social structures that promote and protects these relationships- especially the family! When we make decisions, we need to be aware of how these choices affect all of society.
- 3) **Rights and Responsibilities:** Each and every person, because of our dignity, has basic human rights- the right to have access to food, affordable housing, decent healthcare, education, and numerous other things that ensure that he/she can live a full human life. We have these rights because they help us to protect our dignity in very concrete ways. They are the rights of every human being on earth! However, with these rights, each person also has responsibilities- the responsibility to do his/her part not only for himself/herself, but for everyone!
- 4) **Preferential Option (Commitment) for the Poor and Vulnerable:** God loves each and every human person equally, no matter what! However, some people's needs are much more urgent than others due to many factors and life circumstances. Therefore, while we maintain that everyone is important, we recognize that those people in our society and world who have no voice to protect their own dignity, whose human rights have been violated, and whose dignity is not recognized, must take priority!
- 5) **The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers:** As Catholics, we believe that work is not just a way to make a living- it is one of the ways we participate in the continuing creation of the world. Those who have the responsibility to employ workers have a very special responsibility to make decisions in the workplace that uphold the dignity and protect the rights of the workers. Some of those rights include being able to earn fair wages, to have productive work, and to have a say in the decisions that affect them.
- 6) **Solidarity:** We believe, as Catholics, that every person was created by the same God, which means that we are all brothers and sisters, intimately connected as one human family. We are connected as God's children in spite of anything that may divide us- geography, race, religion, etc. Some of the ways in which we practice solidarity are: when we have genuine concern about those people dying in Africa due to preventable diseases and we work to help them; when we only buy clothing and products (such as candy and coffee) that are produced in factories where workers receive fair wages and their rights are respected (not products made in sweatshops); and when we live more simply and waste less of our Earth's resources to make sure that everyone in our world has what they need.
- 7) **Care for God's Creation:** Do you know that if you are an environmentalist you are living out the seventh Catholic Social Teaching? When God created all of creation, He appointed humans as stewards of the earth. But being stewards does not mean that we own the earth and can do with it whatever we choose! It means that we have been given the responsibility to care for something that does not belong to us! So, when we protect our earth and the plants and animals that God has created, we acknowledge that the Earth does not belong to us and that we cannot do with it as we please. We show reverence to God and all of His creation when we care for our planet!

## Guidelines for Choosing Your Service Project with Your Sponsor

- You and your sponsor can do any type of service project or volunteer work. You just need to do it together! (If this is absolutely not a possibility, you can do a project with another candidate and his/her sponsor or with your parent or older sibling)
- You and your sponsor may design your own service project OR participate in one planned by your parish, your sponsor's parish, your community, neighborhood, or other organization. The time you serve on this project can be counted towards your required hours of service!
- THINK OUTSIDE THE "TYPICAL" SERVICE PROJECTS!  
Here are just a few examples of what you could do!
  - If you have an elderly neighbor who needs help with her housework- that counts!
  - If there is a neighborhood park that needs to be cleaned up- that counts!
  - If there is a huge snow storm and someone needs help shoveling his/her driveway (perhaps a complete stranger ☺)- that counts!
  - If you make a visit to a local Nursing Home to play games with the residents- that counts!
  - You can pray a rosary together for the unborn, the dying, those in purgatory, etc. – that counts!  
*\*Almost anything you and your sponsor can think of that serves others will count!*
- After you have completed the project, take some time to complete the Sponsor Meeting #2 Form (page 4 of this packet) together! You will turn in this form at our fourth Spirit Night on January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Before your service project, together pray these words of Dorothy Day's and reflect on what God asks of you:

*“What we would like to do is change the world-make it a little simpler for people to feed, clothe, and shelter themselves as God intended them to do. And...by fighting for better conditions, by crying out unceasingly for the rights of workers, of the poor, we can to a certain extent change the world...Dear God-please enlarge our hearts to love each other, to love our neighbor, to love our enemy as well as our friend.”*

**St. Raphael Confirmation 2012**

**Sponsor Meeting #2 Form**

*This form must be completed and turned in at Spirit Night #4 on Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012.*

Confirmation Candidate's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print first and last name)

Date Service Project Was Completed: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Description of Service Project: (What did you do?)

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Sponsor's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
\* If special arrangements were made through Amy, parent may sign for sponsor.

**DIRECTIONS:**

*Confirmation Candidate and Sponsor should discuss ALL of the following questions. NO WRITTEN RESPONSES ARE NEEDED!*

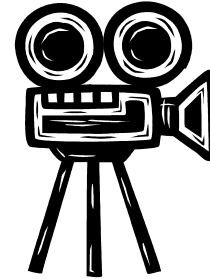
1. Which of the Seven Major Themes of Catholic Social Teaching did you incorporate into your service project?
2. How do you think your time, talents and gifts that you used as you volunteered affected the people you served?
3. Was there anything that frustrated you while you were doing your service project?
4. Did you find that you were able to serve without looking for a reward or did you catch yourself expecting something in return?

5. Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta wrote:

*"To be able to see Christ in the distressing disguise of these, our brothers and sisters, we need a pure heart...A pure heart is free to serve, a pure heart is free to love...and these, the poor, our brothers and sisters, are the hope of salvation for mankind, for at the hour of our death we are going to be judged according to what we have done to them! Just as we need pure eyes to see Christ in the appearance of bread and wine, we need pure eyes to see Him in the distressing guise of the poor...The suffering, the unwanted, the unloved, those people society has discarded as useless- they are Jesus."*

Where did you see Jesus in the people you served? Do you think they saw Jesus in you?

## Sponsor Meeting #3: Finding Your Faith in Film



When you go to see a movie at the theater or you rent a DVD to watch at home do you ever watch the movie in light of your Catholic faith?

Usually all it takes to recognize aspects of your faith in a movie is looking a little more carefully at the themes, the characters, and the story lines of the film. Sometimes the names of characters, towns, restaurants, and street addresses in movies have a special significance and can be linked to our faith. Many times the connections to living a Christian life are easy to see. Other times the connections are much more hidden and subtle. Some films attack Christian values and some uphold and defend them. Because the media is such an influential part of our culture, it is really important as we mature in our faith that the way we view movies, television, and music also matures.

Sometime during January or February 2012, you need to have a “MOVIE NIGHT” (or morning or afternoon ☺ - whatever works with your schedules!) with your sponsor. If your sponsor lives out of town and you will be unable to get together, both of you should view the movie on your own and then have a conversation over the phone about the film.

You may choose a movie from the list below or you and your sponsor can choose a movie. (Please check with your parents to make sure you have permission to watch the movie you have selected!)

- *The Lion King* – G
- *Finding Nemo* – G
- *Bella* - PG
- *Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* – PG
- *Dead Poets Society* – PG
- *Field of Dreams* – PG
- *Groundhog Day* – PG
- *Hoosiers* – PG
- *Remember the Titans* – PG
- *Secondhand Lions* - PG
- *Simon Birch* – PG
- *Entertaining Angels* – PG-13
- *Finding Forrester* – PG-13
- *The Man Without a Face* – PG-13
- *Pay It Forward* – PG-13
- *The Spitfire Grill* – PG-13

St. Raphael Confirmation 2012

Sponsor Meeting #3 Form

*This form must be completed and turned in  
at the March 10<sup>th</sup> Retreat.*

Confirmation Candidate's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print first and last name)

Date Sponsor Meeting #3 Occurred: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Title of the movie viewed: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

\* If sponsor and candidate were unable to meet in person, parent may sign form.

**DIRECTIONS:**

*After viewing the movie, Confirmation Candidate and Sponsor should discuss **ALL** of the following questions. **NO WRITTEN RESPONSES ARE NEEDED!***

1. Where in the movie did you see characters using one or more of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit (Wisdom, Understanding, Right Judgment, Courage, Knowledge, Reverence, Wonder and Awe)? Were there characters that did not seem to use any of these gifts?
2. Were there certain characters that reminded you of people in the Bible?
3. Would you say that the film supported our Catholic beliefs and practices or attacked them?
4. Were there story lines within the movie that reminded you of stories from the Bible? What connections did you see?
5. Did you see anything in the movie that reminded you of any of the Sacraments? (Baptism, Eucharist, Reconciliation, Confirmation, Matrimony, Holy Orders, Anointing of the Sick)
6. What did you learn from this movie? Did it have a particular lesson or moral?
7. What are some of your favorite movies? Have you ever thought about whether they help you grow in your Catholic faith or whether their messages/themes/story lines are opposite to what we believe? Do they promote peace, respect for life, justice, and hope or do they promote violence, using people to get what you want, hate, and despair?
8. Would you recommend this movie to others? Why or why not?