Candidate and Sponsor Conversations

The Candidate and Sponsor relationship is a special one. We ask that Candidates meet with their Sponsors regularly during their preparation for Confirmation. What matters most is connecting with one another and growing together in faith.

Meeting 1

The Church is a holy nation and royal priesthood, called by God to gather together as the Body of Christ to share in Jesus’ mission. When we celebrate the Eucharist, we come together in Jesus’ name to praise and worship God the Father in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Conversation Starter
When I gather with my parish community to celebrate Mass, I feel…..

Faith Sharing
In your Bibles, read Saint Paul’s observations about the ways in which the Christian community in Corinth was gathering to celebrate the Eucharist in 1 Corinthians 11: 17-34. Think about the ways in which you and your parish community gather as you prepare to celebrate Mass. Share with one another what Saint Paul might observe about your community. What specific advice might Saint Paul offer to the members of your parish to help you gather together as the people of God?

Discussion Question
What are two specific things you can do to better prepare your mind and heart to gather for worship with your parish community?

Meeting 2

God’s Divine Revelation to us is found in Sacred Scripture. It is important to listen attentively and respond to God’s word in the Liturgy of the Word and make it part of our daily lives.

Conversation Starter
What is your favorite Scripture story from the Old or New Testament? Explain why the story has special meaning for you.

Faith Sharing
What is the importance of God’s Word in your life?

Discussion Question
How will listening more attentively to God’s Word at Mass help you be a better witness for Christ?
Meeting 3

We renew our Baptismal Promises during the Rite of Confirmation. Through this ritual, we are invited to make deliberate choices to be disciples of Jesus Christ.

Conversation Starter
Talk about a promise you made at some point in your life. Discuss with one another what it meant to keep the promise you made.

Faith Sharing
In your Bibles, read John 3:1-5, 17-19, the story of Jesus’ conversation with Nicodemus. Think about your own Baptism and the Baptisms you have witnessed. Share with one another the questions you might ask of Jesus about what it means to be born of water and the Spirit. Imagine how Jesus might respond to your questions.

Discussion Question
Think about one specific decision you faced today. How did your decision show that you are a disciple of Jesus?

Meeting 4

In Scripture, the laying on of hands calls us to share in Christ’s mission.

Conversation Starter
As a Candidate and Sponsor, I feel that we are growing in our spiritual bond with one another because….

Faith Sharing
Think about the sevenfold gift of the Holy Spirit (wisdom, understanding, right judgment, courage, knowledge, reverence, wonder and awe) the Bishop prays for as he lays hands on Candidates during Confirmation. Share with your Sponsor the gift you most desire to grow in. Explain the reason for your choice.

Discussion Question
When are you most aware of the Holy Spirit’s presence as a Helper and Guide in your life?
Meeting 5

Anointing with Chrism sets aside the baptized and sacred objects used in Liturgy of the Church for a sacred or holy purpose. The anointing of the baptized with Chrism makes them sharers in the Mission of Jesus Christ. During the Rite of Confirmation, the seven-fold gift of the Holy Spirit is sealed within the Candidates.

**Conversation Starter**
What name has the Candidate chosen for Confirmation? What is the Sponsor’s Confirmation name? Share with one another the reason these names were chosen.

**Faith Sharing**
In your Bibles, read 1 Peter 2:9. Share with one another how this passage is lived out in your parish community.

**Discussion Question**
What does it mean to you to be a Christian…someone who shares in Christ’s mission?

Meeting 6

During this meeting, focus on the exchange of peace in the Rite of Confirmation and our call to be peacemakers. Peace is both the restoration of our friendship with God and one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit’s presence in our lives.

**Conversation Starter**
Do you find it easier to forgive or to ask for forgiveness? Explain your response.

**Faith Sharing**
Read Luke 1:67-79, the prophesy of Zechariah about the coming of Jesus. Share with one another how Jesus guides your “feet into the path of peace” in your daily lives.

**Discussion Question**
What specific things can you do to be a better sign of peace for others?
Meeting 7

The seven-fold gift (wisdom, understanding, right judgment, courage, knowledge, reverence, wonder and awe) of the Holy Spirit empowers us to participate in the Eucharist more fully, consciously and actively. Through our sharing in the Eucharist we are called to solidarity with the poor and powerless in the world.

Conversation Starter
The Eucharist is important in my life because…

Faith Sharing
In your Bibles, read Luke 24:13-32, the story of Jesus’ appearance on the road to Emmaus. Discuss how meeting Jesus in the Eucharist helps you to see him in other people in your life.

Discussion Question
Describe an experience from your life when you have felt solidarity with the poor or powerless in the world. What action did you take? How did this experience make you feel?

Meeting 8

The last part of the celebration of Confirmation is the sending forth at the conclusion of the Eucharistic Liturgy. Each week we are sent forth from the Mass to evangelize by sharing the Good News of God’s love.

Conversation Starter
Name someone who is a witness of faith for you and explain why that person is an example for you in living the Catholic faith.

Faith Sharing
The first goal of Catholic evangelization discussed in the document Go and Make Disciples is “to bring about in all Catholics such an enthusiasm for their faith that, in living their faith in Jesus, they freely share it with others (46).” Share with one another what makes you enthusiastic about your faith and why you want to share it with others.

Discussion Question
How can you publicly witness to your faith in Jesus Christ in your daily life?