

# CONFIRMATION SPONSOR/CANDIDATE ORIENTATION

*OCTOBER 2017*

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# Gathering Prayer



Presider: The Lord be with you

All: And with your spirit

All:

Lord bless our coming together and the work to which we are committed in Your name in this place. May all our work give you Glory and serve us and all your people. Amen.

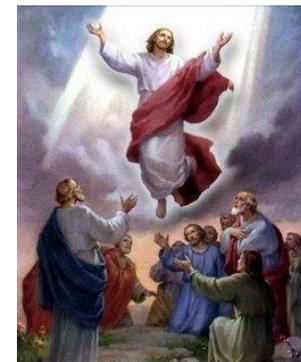
Presider: Please be seated and let us listen to God's word shared with us for our good.



## *Opening Reading*

*Ascension of Jesus, Mark 16 v. 19-21*

***So then the Lord Jesus, after he spoke to them, was taken up into heaven and took his seat at the right hand of God. But they went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the word through accompanying signs.***





# Opening Prayer

## *Reflection Questions:*

- How do we continue the mission of the Lord in preparing our children to be conscious, committed Christians?*
- How do you, as sponsors and parents demonstrate and model for your children how to invite the Lord to continue working in and through our lives?*



# Shared Prayer

- Creator Spirit, strengthen our children with Your gifts of grace, to love and serve as a disciple of Christ. Grant that our children may grow into the fullness of Christ. Fill each one with the joy of Your presence.
- Increase in my child the fruit of your Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of love, patience and gentleness, the spirit of wonder and true holiness.
- And fill us with your love that we may guide and support our child in all the ways needed to come to and to follow you in our lives and times. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

# Ignatian Spirituality

## *Founding Principles*



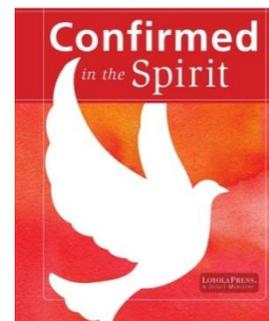
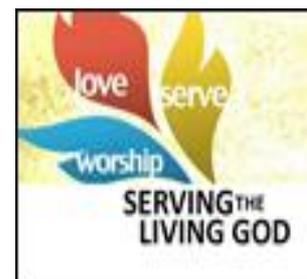
Ignatian Spirituality is rooted in the spiritual conversion of St. Ignatius (1491–1556), and includes these basic principles:

- **God is at work everywhere**
- **We discern God's presence in our everyday life where God calls and we respond.**
- **Use our imaginations as a great resource for prayer and insight.**
- **Right choices depend on our interior freedom.**
- **Ask: "What have I done for Christ? What am I doing for Christ? What ought I to do for Christ?"**
- **Connect our life path to God's call to us.**
- **Spirituality is a work done in collaboration with Christ and others.**
- **"Contemplatives in action." We must learn to seek and find God in all the ways we live our lives and discover God is present - in our homes, workplaces, leisure, families, and church.**
- **Be men and women for others. Cultivate a deep commitment to justice and give of myself to love and support others.**
- **All who follow this way to God will cultivate a heart of service and generosity.**

# Overview of Program Components:

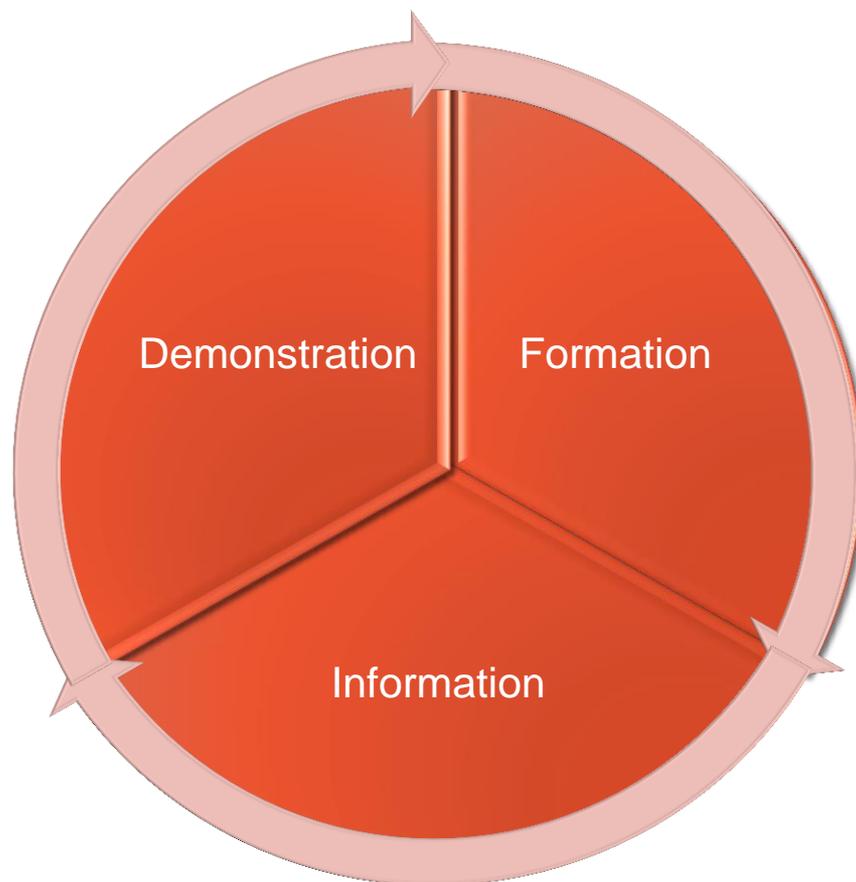


- *12 Sessions with Catechists*
- *Pilgrimages*
- *Service/Witness Activities*
  - *Internal/External*
- *Retreats*
- *6 Conversations with Sponsor*

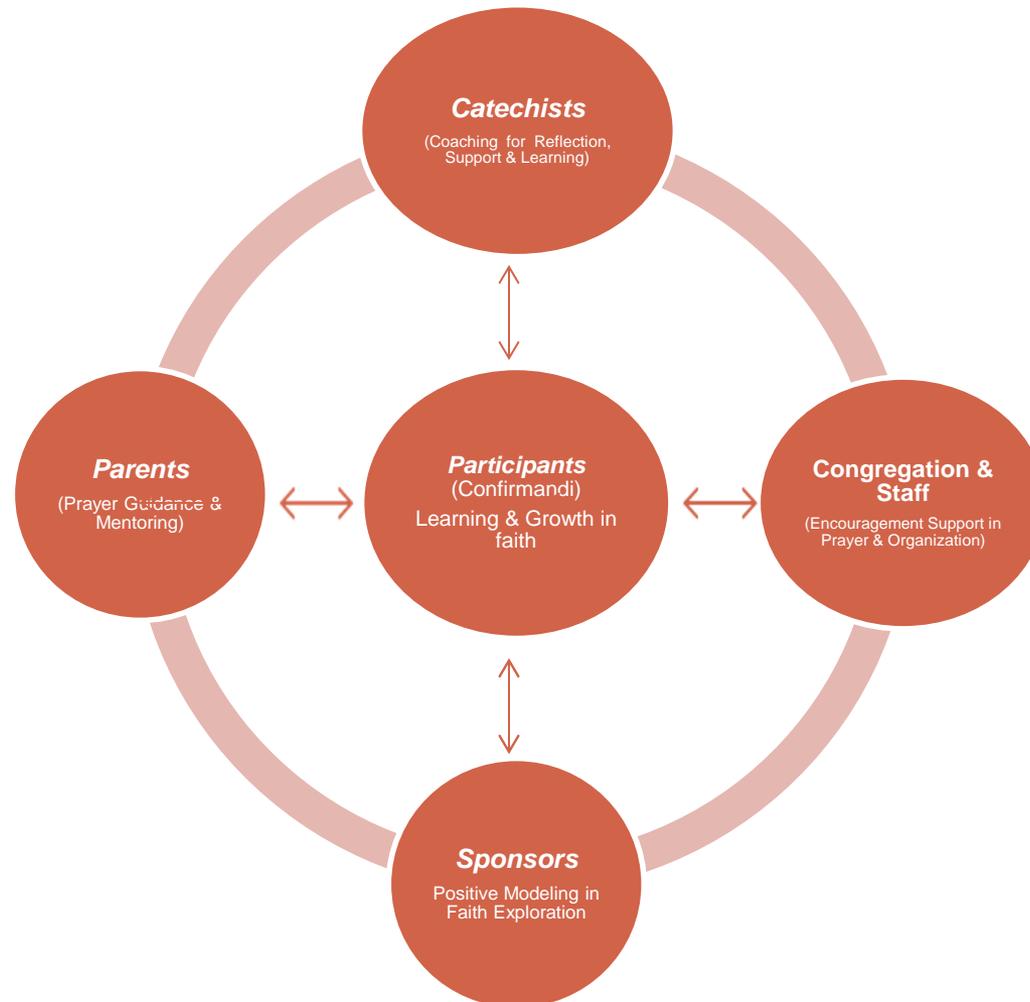




# Our Shared Program Focus:



# Cooperating Roles in Confirmation Process







*Break Out:*

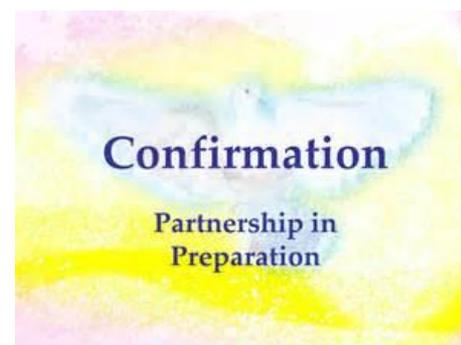
*Candidates please go to  
Rooms 203-204*

*Sponsors please stay in Hall –  
6 Conversation Magazine  
distribution*

# Responsibilities of Sponsor



- *Reinforce the Church's mission to support and sustain our growth in Christ*
- *Model ways to challenge and comfort our children*
- *Engage candidate during preparation*
- *Continue support during and beyond preparation for Confirmation.*



# 10 Tips for Being a Sponsor



1. Share your gift of time and attention with the candidate in the preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation.
2. Listen more than talk. Listen without judging.
3. When you talk, talk from your heart.
4. Find ways to show you're thinking of your candidate throughout the time of preparation, write an email, make a phone call or send a card.
5. Follow up on interests that the candidate mentions to you and discuss them with the candidate.

# 10 Tips for Being a Sponsor



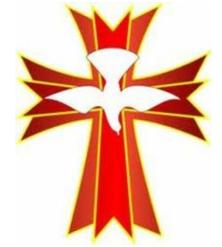
6. Pray for the candidate daily and ask the candidate to pray for you.
7. Tell stories that demonstrate your faith. Tell how your faith makes a difference in facing the daily challenges and graces that your life entails.
8. Offer concrete, positive praise for the goodness and potential you see in the candidate.
9. Realize your role doesn't end on Confirmation day. Plan to stay in touch: on birthdays, baptismal or Confirmation anniversaries, send a handwritten note, card or small gift that speaks of your shared faith.
10. Let your role as a sponsor inspire you to focus more on your faith, which will not only help you, but also be a great example to your candidate.

# Responsibilities of Sponsor



- *Faith to Faith magazine*
  - *6 Conversations*
    - ❖ *Sponsor preps with pages 1 & 2 of each conversation*
    - ❖ *Candidate and sponsor do pages 3 & 4 together*
    - ❖ *Note date of each conversation and reflection on log in back in journal.*
  - *Please complete the conversations by Feb. 25, 2018.*

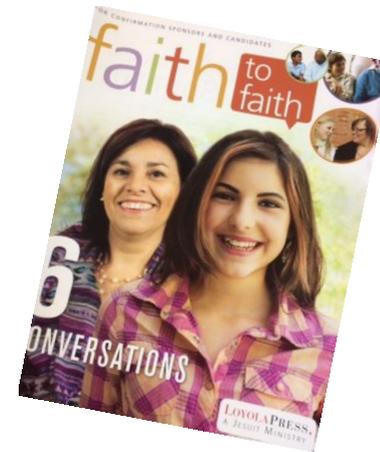
# Responsibilities of Sponsor



## *Faith to Faith magazine*

### *6 Conversations for Candidates and Sponsors:*

- 1. Who is Jesus?*
- 2. What do I believe?*
- 3. How should I live?*
- 4. Where do I belong?*
- 5. How do I pray?*
- 6. What is my destiny?*

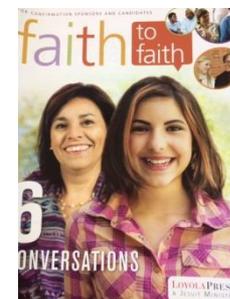


# Responsibilities of Sponsor



## *Faith to Faith magazine*

- *Set up a meeting schedule/time for all conversations in advance.*
  - ❖ *Facetime and Skype can help for out of town sponsors.*
- *Create a “special” place to meet*
  - ❖ *Orient the space for reflection and thoughtful exchange.*
  - ❖ *Opening and Closing Prayer (Catholic prayers are in back of magazine)*
  - ❖ *Limit distractions*



# Responsibilities of Sponsor



## *Sponsors attendance:*

- *Participate in any supportive way for your candidate on pilgrimages, service or other program connected activity.*
  - *Retreat*
  - *Encouragement Letter*
  - *Join us for Mass*

# Responsibilities of Sponsor



## *Sponsors attendance:*

- *Rehearsal on April 12<sup>th</sup> (parent can attend in their place)*
- *Confirmation Mass on April 14<sup>th</sup>*

*\*Rehearsals and Masses are all at St. John Neumann in Annapolis*



# HINTS FOR A MEANINGFUL CONVERSATION

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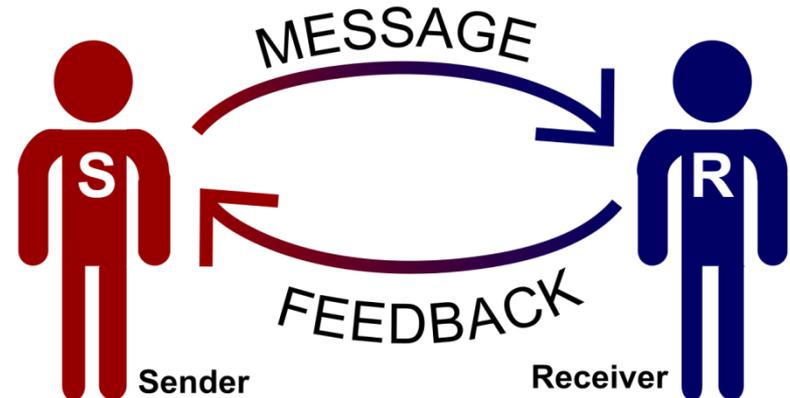
Confirmation sponsor meeting





# What is a Conversation?

- According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary it is an “oral exchange of sentiments, observations, opinions, or ideas”.
- The most important word is “**exchange**.” That means two or more people are listening and paying attention to each other in order to share a message together.





# Conversation do's and don'ts

- In the United States, and most of the Western world, exchange of a message is done by looking a person in the eye when we talk to each other.
- In fact, when meeting a new person, introduce yourself, look the new person in the eyes, smile and give a firm handshake.





# Conversation Do's and Don'ts

You need to be “present” to the person you are with, not distracted:

- **Put away all electronics!** That doesn't mean sneaking peeks at your cell phone, or at messages or the score of the game.
- **Don't play with objects.** If you are tempted, please move them beyond your reach.
- **Turn off the tv or other distractions.**





# Conversation Do's and Don'ts

- A good first impression is important. It is very hard to change a person's first impression of you.
- Listen more than you are talking- don't monopolize the conversation, ask questions of the other person. And ***LISTEN*** to their answers!
- Your body language tells the other person if you are listening- look at the person you are talking to, don't keep scanning the room for what is happening around you. It gives the impression that you are distracted and not engaged with what the person is sharing. Don't fold your arms or cross your self in any way.

Which person is probably communicating better? Why?





# Being a good conversationalist

- This is a critical skill to be learned, and will help you throughout your life.
- It makes for easier job interviews, meeting new people and being comfortable in challenging situations
- And more importantly, it helps keep people as friends.
- No body wants to talk with a poor conversationalist....  
We run away or avoid people who are  
And we seek out and benefit from those who are!



# QUESTIONS?



# *Candidates Rejoin Sponsors*

# Closing Prayer



*Heavenly Father as we come to the end of our time together we thank you for what has been accomplished here today for all involved in this process of learning and grace.*

*May what we discussed serve us as we become more focused on knowing and serving you and growing in the areas of our lives to which you are inviting us.*

*May Your Spirit be our catalyst who calls us forward and causes us to advance and see growth in all areas of our lives.*

*May we leave here recognizing You are the God of all wisdom and You are already leading us forward toward You. And may you bless and sustain these young people on their way to live fully with You.*

*This we pray together in the name of the Lord Jesus. Amen*





*Sponsors and Candidates  
are welcome to stay and  
complete conversation #1*