

*Office of Faith Formation*

*Saint John Bosco*

*267-803-0774*

**The Role of a Sponsor – A call to Integrity**

Dear Sponsor,

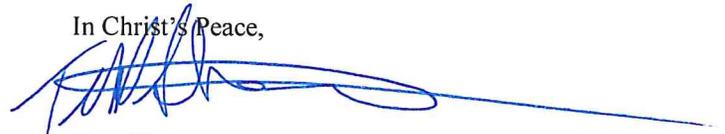
The role of a Sponsor at Confirmation is more than merely ceremonial. The first question is not whether or not the Church will permit me to be a sponsor but rather whether or not I can allow myself to be one. In other words, each one of us must ask himself if our own integrity allows us to stand at the altar and make a public profession that the faith we will speak in word is also a faith in practice.

The role of sponsor does not demand that you be a canonized saint. All of us must place ourselves at the mercy of God. We all have miles to go in Christian progress, yet we also know that sometimes it happens that members of families, who have stopped attending Mass or who rarely receive the sacraments, suddenly find themselves asked to be a sponsor. If you are in a similar situation, we invite you to let this moment be a real opportunity to grow in the Spirit and in your faith.

Perhaps you are not ready for this. If you cannot bring yourself to a renewed practice of faith, then by all means be honest enough to simply ask the relative or friend who asked you to be a sponsor to hold you excused. Whatever you discern, do so by the grace of God, not by being harder on yourself than the Church itself is.

If we can be of any assistance in your discernment or in nurturing the grace that this occasion provides for you, please give us a call. Thank you for your consideration, thoughts, and prayers in arriving at a response to this call to integrity.

In Christ's Peace,



Tess Shore

Director of Faith Formation