

Confirmandi-Sponsor Discussion Prompts

- Meet with your sponsor 1:1 at least 3 times before you are Confirmed. This can be via phone, over lunch or coffee, or before/after Mass, a service project, or Family Session.
 - Pray together each time (one does opening prayer and the other does closing prayer).
 - Spend at least 30 minutes each time in conversation about faith-related topics.
 - You don't have to answer every single question provided, but they are good starting points.
 - BOTH the Sponsor AND the Confirmandi should ask and answer questions.
 - This is a minimum requirement! Consider how you can continue to meet after the 3 meetings are over.
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Know God

1. How did you become Catholic? Were you baptized when you were a baby or did you become Catholic when you were older? Why did you choose to stay Catholic?
2. As a Catholic, what makes you different from other Christians? Give a few examples.
3. What is your favorite Scripture passage, verse or story? Tell me why.
4. 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? If you are currently in one of those moments, what help do you need and where are you looking for it?
5. 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? How can you tell whether you have found a "good Catholic resource" on the internet?
6. What is the difference between knowing a lot of facts about a person and actually "knowing" a person? What is the difference between "knowing God" and "knowing about God?" Who is Jesus to you?
7. What teaching of the Church do most people misunderstand? OR, what misconceptions have you heard when talking to non-Catholic friends? (i.e., someone thinks Catholics believe X but the Church actually teaches Y). How do you react or respond when topics like this come up?

8. Why does the Church teach (insert difficult hot-button topic here)?
9. Your question:
10. Your question:

Love God

1. When was the first time you experienced God's presence in a meaningful way? Tell the story.
2. What does it look like to "love God" in today's day and age?
3. 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? Who or what do you usually pray for?
4. 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?
5. In what ways do you feel that celebrating the Eucharist (the Mass) strengthens and nourishes you to live as a Catholic? Did you ever have a time when you did not like going to Mass? What do you do to be more present or pay better attention?
6. 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?
7. 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?
8. Which sacraments have you received so far? Which ones do you anticipate receiving in the future? Which one is your favorite, or has been most impactful on you, and why?
9. Your question:
10. Your question:

Serve God

1. Who is someone you know who *really tries* to live a Catholic Christian lifestyle? What makes him/her different from others?

2. 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.
3. Have you ever had a time in your life when you felt close to God? Tell me about it. Do you think feelings are necessary for faith? Why or why not?
4. How do you give back to your church? What ministries are you / have you been involved in? Which one was your favorite, and why?
5. How does your faith affect your life outside of Sunday morning—
 - How you interact with people at work?
 - How you spend your money?
 - How you spend your time?
6. Which corporal work of mercy do you perform most often? Which is most difficult for you?
 - Feed the hungry
 - Give drink to the thirsty
 - Clothe the naked
 - Shelter the homeless
 - Care for the sick
 - Visit the imprisoned
 - Bury the dead
7. What do you think God is calling you to do with your life? Which life vocation do you think he has planned for your life (single, married, priest, religious) and your career (job/work)?
8. If you had a million dollars and you had to spend it all on people in need, who would you help, and how? What can you do with just \$10 to help these same people? What can you do for free?
9. Your question:
10. Your question:

Confirmation-Specific Prompts

1. Do you / did you want to be Confirmed? Do you want to be Catholic for the rest of your life? Why or why not?
2. What does it mean to be Confirmed? Why is this important, or different from any of the other sacraments?

3. Why did you choose your Sponsor? Give an example of how he/she is an excellent Catholic role model.
 4. What name did you choose for your Confirmation name and why? Why is he/she one of your favorite saints? What is there about his/her life that has helped you on your faith journey?
 5. At the Sacrament of Confirmation, the gifts we first received at our Baptism are strengthened and increased. Which gift do you need most in your life right now? Or, which gift do you need to use more? Sponsors, reflecting back on your life experiences and decisions, which gifts have you used most?
 - Wisdom
 - Understanding
 - Right Judgment (Counsel)
 - Courage (Fortitude)
 - Knowledge
 - Reverence (Piety)
 - Wonder and Awe (Fear of the Lord)
 6. What do you think is one of the greatest challenges to being Catholic? What is the best thing about being Catholic?
 7. In what ways do you still need to grow in your Catholic faith?
 8. Did anything in your life change after you were Confirmed?
OR, Do you expect anything in your life to change after you are Confirmed?
 9. Your question:
 10. Your question:
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AT THE END OF 3 SESSIONS:

Submit to Anna (typed or handwritten) a note that includes:

- The 3 dates you met with your sponsor
- Something new you learned about your sponsor
- Something new you learned about yourself
- Something new you learned about God or your faith