



## *Immaculate Heart of Mary Church*

### Office of Religious Education

22375 Three Notch Road, Lexington Park, MD 20653

<http://www.ihmrcc.org>; 301-863-8793

### Sponsor Certification Form

Please read and sign the following information and be sure to have your parish priest certify.

This is to certify

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(Sponsor's Name)

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(Sponsor's Address and Zip Code)

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(Name and Address of Parish)

accepts the invitation to be a sponsor at the Confirmation of

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(Candidate's Name)

at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Lexington Park, Maryland 20653.

*I affirm that I am a Baptized and Confirmed Catholic, that I participate in the sacraments regularly, and that I am in good standing in the Catholic Church.*

*I understand that I am acting as a witness to the public acceptance of the Catholic religion by this candidate.*

*I agree to support and guide this candidate, most especially by my own Catholic example, my witness and through my prayers.*

*I will **participate fully** in any portion of the candidate's preparation program, which involves the sponsors.*

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(Sponsor's Signature)

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(Sponsor's Parish Priest Signature)

# **CONFIRMATION SPONSOR**

## WHO MAY BE A SPONSOR FOR CONFIRMATION?

1. The sponsor should be a faithful member of the Catholic Church who is an active participant in the Sunday Liturgy and Holy Days of Obligation, receives the Sacraments often, and who is involved in the works of the parish.
2. The sponsor must have already celebrated the Sacraments of Initiation – Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.
3. The sponsor must be in good standing with the Church and free to celebrate the Sacraments. (For example, a person who has remarried outside the Church cannot be a sponsor.)
4. A sponsor may be one of the candidate's Baptismal Godparents. This would be a follow-up to the relationship and responsibilities that flow from Baptism.
5. According to the directives in Canon #893, neither the father nor the mother of a candidate can be a sponsor.
6. The sponsor must be at least 16 years of age.

## **THE ROLE OF A SPONSOR/SPONSORS:**

- \*support the person to be confirmed in their commitment to a Christian life
- \*must know the candidate and be willing to serve as a strong and long-lasting Christian influence on the candidate
- \*should be sufficiently mature in their own faith commitment
- \*may be either male or female for any candidate
- \*must obtain a statement of eligibility from the pastor of the parish
- \*may help the candidate prepare for Confirmation
- \*may assist the candidate in choosing and carrying out the candidate's service project
- \*must be reasonably informed on current church teachings
- \*may accompany the candidate to special liturgies and preparation programs
- \*will present the candidate to the minister of Confirmation

***Called to sponsor this candidate in the final stages of their preparation for reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation and to walk with them as they follow Jesus thereafter, I commit myself to:***

1. Pray with my candidate,
2. Be a faith model for my candidate, sharing with her/him my own faith and the meaning of the Gospel in my own life,
3. Listen in a caring and supportive way as my candidate articulates his/her experience of growing in faith, hope and love,
4. Participate actively in the liturgical rites of the process,
5. Help my candidate identify Christian service with which s/he can become involved and to reflect with him/her on the meaning and significance of Christian service,
6. Participate in evaluating my candidate's readiness in the designated manner as the time of Confirmation approaches, giving my sense of the faith of my candidate and her/his ability to walk as a disciple of Jesus Christ and a member of his Church,
7. Work cooperatively and accountably with the parish pastoral staff and catechists to ensure, as far as possible, that this preparation process is life-giving and faithful to its purpose.

I recognize that as a Sponsor I am called to witness and to guide a person searching for the faith of the Church, and for their own place in it. I dedicate myself to the ministry of sponsor and promise to do my best to fulfill this ministry, in word and deed, and I call upon God to bless this work begun in me, In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,

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Signature of Sponsor / Date

***Confirmation Prayer***

***God, our Father, we ask you to bless all candidates who are preparing to receive the Spirit of Your love in the sacrament of Confirmation. May the gifts within each one be touched by Your Holy Spirit and become blessings for our parish family. Bless, too, our parents, our sponsors, our teachers and catechists, and all those who have been the reflection of Your Son's love for us. This we ask through Christ, our Lord. Amen.***

# The Choosing of a Christian Name



Many people choose an additional saint's name at Confirmation. The preferred name, however, is the baptismal name because it expresses the relationship that exists between Baptism and Confirmation.

If a new name is taken, however, it should be the name of a recognized saint of the Catholic Church. If the baptismal name is not that of a recognized saint, a new name should be chosen for Confirmation.

Names of saints are chosen to serve as patrons and models for those being confirmed. Candidates should choose a patron saint's name, not because of the attractiveness of the name, but because of the attractiveness of the Christian life that that person led.

Find out more about your patron saint's life. Choose either your baptismal or confirmation patron.

Saint's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Feast Day: \_\_\_\_\_

**Name or derivative you have selected to use to honor this special patron:**

\_\_\_\_\_

Saint's place of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Find out something about this saint's:

Family: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Life and/or death: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What virtues did this saint practice in his/her life? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What aspect of this person's Christian life attracted you? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How is this saint a model for Christians today? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Ask your parents or whoever named you how they picked the name you received at birth? Your baptismal name? Then write (on back) a brief story about what you found you.

Candidate's full name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# SAMPLE PAPER

## A SAINT REPORT ON ELIZABETH OF PORTUGAL



### 4 July Profile

Daughter of King Peter III of Aragon, and great-niece of Saint Elizabeth of Hungary. Princess. Queen of Portugal. Mother of two. Suffered through years of an abusive and faithless marriage. Widow. After the King's death, she distributed her property to the poor, became a Franciscan tertiary, and retired to a monastery of *Poor Clares*. Peacemaker.

*Born 1271 @ Aragon, Spain*

*Died 1336 @ Estremoz*

*Canonized 1625-6*

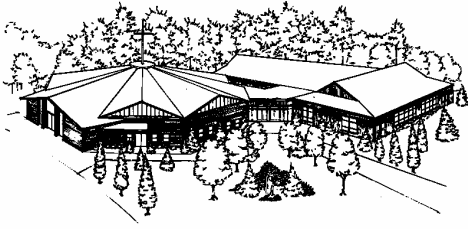
*Patronage against jealousy, brides, charitable societies, charitable workers, charities, difficult marriages, falsely accused people, invoked in time of war, peace, queens, tertiaries, victims of adultery, victims of jealousy, victims of unfaithfulness, widows Representation: beggar; rose*

The saint I have chosen is Saint Elizabeth of Portugal. She was born in 1271. She died in 1336. She was canonized a saint in 1636 by Urban 8<sup>th</sup> and her feast day is July 8.

Although I have many interests and enjoy music and sports, I wish I had more time to research many saints. But when I read about St. Elizabeth, I saw some things in her that I admired. I was impressed by the fact that she helped poor and sick people even though she was born wealthy herself. I think that it was very brave of her to continue to care for the poor even though it was not a popular thing to do. Even her husband did not support her at first, but a special miracle changed his mind. She spent ever last waking moment with the poor and sick. If someone fell she would come to rescue them. She reminds me of what true love (friendship) and charity could be. That is why I pick her for my saint. I would like to have her courage and compassion for the less fortunate.

By

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*Immaculate Heart of Mary*

Office of Religious Education

Phone: 301-863-8793 ★ Email: [janet@ihmrcc.org](mailto:janet@ihmrcc.org)

## SAINT REPORT REQUIREMENTS:

### FACTS

- Give adequate facts about your chosen Saint:
- Birthday and Birth place
- What the Saint is uniquely known or recognized for
- Time and place of death

### OPINION

- Be honest
- State your personal impressions of the Saint
- Give a reason for choosing this particular Saint
- You may close by sharing a personal wish or concern related to this Saint

Neatness and clarity always makes a report stand out from the rest.



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## **ABOUT COMMUNITY SERVICE** (WITHIN THE CONFIRMATION PROGRAM)

*Every Confirmation candidate has the responsibility to render at least 25 hours of community service. This requirement is a **necessary supplement** to the weekly formation classes as it allows each student to put into practice, through their actions, the role of Christ as servant.*

After Advent, seventh grade students who will be receiving the sacrament of Confirmation here at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church (through the eighth grade Confirmation program) are encouraged to begin work on their community service hours. Remember that our Lord Jesus came not to be served but to serve. As Catholic Christians, we have the responsibility to donate our time and talents without expecting any personal reward, payment or special recognition. We do these charitable acts because we believe in God's commands and we live out these beliefs through our actions in daily life. A single youth can make an impact and difference in someone else's life as well as the whole community.

The following opportunities will help you attain required community service hours right here at IHM:

### **1. IHM Grounds/Property**

Help is needed in the maintenance and upkeep of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church property (particularly outdoors). Please contact Brady Bounds our facilities and plant manager through the IHM office: 301-863-8144 (Mondays to Fridays from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. to make arrangements).

### **2. Children's Faith Formation (CFF) sessions**

Committed teachers' aides and helpers are always needed during the CFF school year. Youth volunteers are expected to be a responsible and mature support to our teaching staff. Therefore, if you are interested in being a helper, your ability to enhance the program will be emphasized. Class helpers will automatically receive 25 hours of community service as long as their attendance is consistent.

**3. IHM Parish Seafood Dinners** (sign-ups located in the Parish Bulletin Board) IHM volunteers coordinate the meals prepared during our Lenten Seafood dinners. Students can help by bussing tables; helping the elderly get food and drink; and helping the moms with young children. **(Volunteers do not receive free food.)** Help is needed in the hall **after the Friday dinners** also.

### **4. Sacramental (First Holy Communion and First Penance) Preparation** (see CFF Director)

Usually entails helping with 3 Saturday family retreat - workshops.

## 5. ANNUAL Re-Opening of Sessions with a Special Liturgy and CRAFTS

The day before Opening Sunday: Confirmation Student Service groups will meet and set up their activity centers after the 4 PM Mass. Meet in the hall from 5 to 5:30 p.m.

On the Sunday itself: Confirmation Student Service groups will meet at 10 a.m. to man a center until 1:45 p.m. There is a break between 11:15 and 12:15 for lunch (bring your own).



**Other special PARISH EVENTS or COMMUNITY programs (school, public library, Kiwanis, etc.) may also be explored by your families.**

All the above IHM volunteer areas will require written parental approval. Although you are required to do a **minimum of 25 hours of community service**, there is no maximum restriction on volunteer hours. We hope you will take advantage of the above service opportunities.

It is the candidate's responsibility to get class assignments handed in on time. An **hour** of community service will be added to the student's service requirement for each week that a requirement deadline is not met (i.e. submitting Bishop Letter, service project report, etc.).

### ***A word about Baby-sitting***

*Please make sure that your baby-sitting service helps out a **community** or group and not just one individual or family. If unsure about the situation please contact Janet Harmon immediately.*



**The deadline for completing 25 hours of community service is the first Monday of February**, otherwise five (5) more hours of service will be added to the student's requirement. An **hour** of community service will be added to the student's service requirement for each week that a requirement deadline is not met (i.e. submitting letter to the Bishop, service project report, etc.). This will demonstrate an act of good faith on his/her part in preparation to be confirmed. The successful Confirmation student has exemplary participation as well as the full support of his/her family.

