



General Information Sheet for a Sponsor in OCIA

Thank you for considering serving as an OCIA Sponsor. A sponsor is more than a helper or a teacher; a sponsor is a **bridge** between the person seeking Christ and the life of the Church. Sponsors walk alongside catechumens and candidates through prayer, friendship, encouragement, and shared faith.

A good sponsor does not need to have all the answers. A good sponsor is someone who is willing to listen, pray, share their own faith journey, and accompany another person as they encounter Jesus and the Catholic Church.

Name _____

Home Address _____ City and Zip _____

Home Phone (____) _____ Cell Phone (____) _____

Email Address _____ @ _____

Preferred method of contact: ☐ Phone ☐ Text ☐ Email

1. How long have you been Catholic?

2. How would you describe your current relationship with Jesus?

3. What does being a Catholic disciple mean to you?

4. What experiences have helped you grow in your faith?

5. What gifts or experiences do you feel you can offer someone who is exploring the Catholic faith?

6. Sponsorship involves **presence, prayer, and relationship**. How would you describe your willingness to accompany someone throughout the OCIA journey?

7. What parish ministries, groups, or activities have you participated in?

8. Are there particular gifts or interests you would like to share?

☐ Hospitality

☐ Teaching

☐ Prayer

☐ Listening/Companionship

☐ Scripture

☐ Other: _____

A sponsor is a companion on the journey of faith. You are not expected to be an expert, a theologian, or someone who has all the answers. Your greatest gift is your willingness to walk alongside another person as they discover Jesus Christ and the Catholic Church.

The Holy Spirit is already working in the life of the person you accompany. Your role is to notice God's presence, encourage their questions, share your own experience of faith, and help them feel at home in the community of the Church.

I understand that, in accordance with the OCIA process, my role as a sponsor may conclude at the beginning of the Period of Purification and Enlightenment. At that time, I may step aside to allow the catechumen's godparent to accompany them through the remainder of their journey, including the initiation sacraments. I will support this transition with grace, recognizing that my role has been to help build a bridge to Christ and His Church.

As an OCIA Sponsor, I commit to:

Be Present

I will make time to build a genuine relationship with the person I accompany. I will listen with an open heart and respect their unique story, questions, and experiences.

Pray

I will pray for the person entrusted to my care, asking the Holy Spirit to guide their journey and deepen their relationship with Christ.

Worship

I will faithfully worship on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation, recognizing that the Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life.

Share Faith

I will share my own faith honestly—not as someone who has all the answers, but as a fellow pilgrim who continues to grow in knowing, loving, and following Jesus Christ and His Church.

Encourage

I will encourage my catechumen or candidate to participate fully in the OCIA process, the sacramental life of the Church, prayer, Scripture, and the life of the parish community. I will accompany them to OCIA sessions, retreats, liturgical rites, and other parish activities whenever possible. I will also encourage my catechumen or candidate to attend Sunday Mass faithfully and to participate in the dismissal prayer sessions as an important part of their formation.

Walk Alongside

I understand that conversion is a journey. I will offer friendship, patience, and support as the person discovers what it means to belong to Christ and His Church.

Continue Growing

I recognize that being a sponsor also invites me to deepen my own faith. Through accompanying another person, I too become a renewed disciple.

Sponsor Prayer

Lord Jesus,

You called disciples to walk with you and to share your love with others.

Guide me as I accompany another person on their journey of faith.

Help me listen with compassion, speak with kindness, and recognize your presence already at work in their life.

May my friendship become a sign of your welcome,

my prayers become a source of strength,

and my witness help another person encounter you more deeply.

Amen.

Contact: Dawn Ponnet, 626.403.6128 • dponnet@holyfamily.org

Holy Family Church Pastoral Center

1527 Fremont Ave. • South Pasadena • California 91030 • Telephone: 626.799.8908 • Facsimile: 626.799.0423