

## The Sacrament of Confirmation: Some highlights of the policy in the Diocese of Albany

A person requesting the Sacrament of Confirmation in any parish in the Diocese of Albany

- Is baptized
- Is *minimally* in Grade 10 or 15 years of age
- If a youth, is participating in the parish's faith formation/youth ministry program *at least* one year prior to the immediate preparation for Confirmation\*
- Participates fully in the immediate preparation for Confirmation.
- Shows a sincere desire to live his/her faith as a disciple of Jesus with the Catholic community
- Has a sponsor who meets the requirements for a Confirmation sponsor\*\*



\* A youth who is enrolled in a Catholic high school is assumed to meet their faith formation requirement in their high school and may enroll in an immediate preparation at their parish without having participated in the parish faith formation program the previous year. However, there is *one parish program of immediate preparation for Confirmation* for all youth whether they are enrolled in the parish faith formation program, the Catholic high school, or catechized at home.

\*\*The Confirmation sponsor is similar to the baptismal godparent. S/he is someone, other than the parent, who stands as a witness on behalf of the larger faith community and pledges to support the candidates' journey of faith as s/he grows as a Catholic. It is a very specific role both in the celebration of the sacrament, as well as before and after the sacrament is received. Therefore the sponsor must be:

- A fully initiated Catholic having received Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist
- Is a Catholic who practices his/her faith within a Catholic faith community
- Is at least 16 years of age
- Living a life in harmony with the Catholic faith
- Intentionally desires to support the candidate through prayer, active support and being an example of faith