

OFFICE FOR DIVINE WORSHIP  
ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

**2022 SUMMER SPONSOR FORMATION PROGRAM  
FOR ADULT CHRISTIAN INITIATION**

This three session summer program is designed to assist qualified Catholics to assist as a sponsor for adults seeking full Christian Initiation, completing Christian Initiation as a Baptized Catholic and/or coming into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church.

The *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* (RCIA) offers the following description for a sponsor and a godparent:

*A sponsor accompanies any candidate seeking admission as a catechumen. Sponsors are persons who have known and assisted the candidates and stand as witnesses to the candidates' moral character, faith, and intention. It may happen that it is not the sponsor for the rite of acceptance and the period of the catechumenate but another person who serves as godparent for the periods of purification and enlightenment and of mystagogy. (RCIA, number 10)*

*Their godparents (for each a godmother or godfather, or both) accompany the candidates on the day of election, at the celebration of the sacraments of initiation, and during the period of mystagogy.<sup>6</sup> Godparents are persons chosen by the candidates on the basis of example, good qualities, and friendship, delegated by the local Christian community, and approved by the priest. It is the responsibility of godparents to show the candidates how to practice the Gospel in personal and social life, to sustain the candidates in moments of hesitancy and anxiety, to bear witness, and to guide the candidates' progress in the baptismal life. Chosen before the candidates' election, godparents fulfil this office publicly from the day of the rite of election, when they give testimony to the community about the candidates. They continue to be important during the time after reception of the sacraments when the neophytes need to be assisted so that they remain true to their baptismal promises. (RCIA, number 11)*

The expectations of a sponsor, the relationship between the sponsor and candidate, charting progress in conversion, accountability, discussing sensitive moral teachings, readiness for the Sacraments and post sacramental follow up will be among the many topics that will be a part of this sponsor formation program.

**June 30, July 28, and August 25, 2022**

**7:00 PM to 8:30 PM**

**Neumann Room at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul**

**Father Dennis Gill, Presenter**

*Parking available*

Please register at [worship@archphila.org](mailto:worship@archphila.org).