

Hello Confirmation sponsors! Thank you for your YES to the Confirmation candidate in your life who has chosen you to help you mentor them on their faith journey. It is a journey for certain, and I want to take a moment to encourage you in your role.

You've probably heard the line that goes something like, "God doesn't call the equipped; He equips the called". I don't know who first came up with that thought, but it is certainly true. If you have accepted the invitation to be a Confirmation sponsor, then congratulations – consider yourself called! Now, you might be thinking that you don't have the right background or that you don't know enough about religion in order to help your Confirmand on their path. Nothing could be further from the truth. If you've watched my intro video, then you may remember the three talking points I focused on to help guide you to successfully mentoring your teen. (If you haven't watched my video yet, now is a really good time to do that – it's available on www.hawb.org/confirmation). For the sake of review, here are those three points: **listen**, **share**, and **pray**.

Having conversations about topics that are important to your Confirmand sets a great foundation for being able to talk about their faith journey. Now, you might have the kind of relationship with your Confirmand that allows you to jump right in and talk about matters of faith. If so, that's fantastic! Keep in mind that it is important to **listen** to where your teen is at, and equally important for you to share from your heart about your faith and what it means to you. Remember: there is a reason the teen in your life chose you to mentor them about faith. Don't be afraid to **share** your story, the ups, downs, and the in-between.

In addition to sharing experiences, taking time to talk about matters of faith is a powerful way to encounter Jesus and his teachings. That's what makes **praying** together a vital part of this journey, whether that looks like attending Mass together (in person or livestream) or experiencing another form of prayer. Regardless of what form it takes on, praying is a conversation, and praying together is a three-way conversation that involves God directly. There is no better way to maintain a good relationship than with conversation – that includes family, friends, and certainly God.

To help guide these conversations with your Confirmand, we have enlisted the help of a source called *The Wild Goose*, which is a multi-part series that focuses on the Holy Spirit. Fr. Dave Pivonka and 4PM Media are the driving force behind *The Wild Goose*, which is found on FORMED and their own website as well. I've included three parts of this video series for you to watch with your Confirmand, and each video is accompanied with its own study guide. These guides, which do not need to be turned in to me, should help form your discussion about your Confirmand's faith journey. How far you stay on task with the questions and reflections is up to you; keep in mind that good mentorship is the #1 goal, so if it goes "off topic" for a while, that's certainly OK – just bring it back to your teen's faith journey. Each video is about 25 minutes long, and I encourage you to watch them before you tackle the study guides. You can watch them together or separately before you chat, that's also up to you.

The video links are below, and the study guides are attached to this message. In addition, these links and the study guides will be available on the Holy Angels Confirmation website (same link as above). If you have any questions along the way, please let me know. Again, thank you for your YES to mentoring teens in faith, and I look forward to hearing about how the conversations go.

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