

THE ROLE OF THE CANDIDATE

Because the candidate for a Quince Años celebration is presented in the church by their family, there must be a special emphasis placed on the awareness that the young person become an active member of the family of God and a witness to the life and values of the Catholic faith.

Following are expectations of the candidate:

1. Interview with a priest or with a member of the formation team to share around: spiritual growth, relationship with God and with the Church.
2. Be willing to go through a preparation program. Others participating in the Quince Años ceremony are invited to join in the preparation program.
3. Understand the significance of the liturgical celebration as a call to grow in faith and in commitment to the Gospel and to collaborate in the preparation of the Quince Años liturgy.
4. If the sacraments of the Church have not been fully received, be participating in a special sacrament preparation program prior to the celebration of the Quince Años.

PRE-REQUISITES FOR PARTICIPATION

1. The participant shall be baptized.
2. The participant should have received the sacraments of First communion and Penance or be preparing for the reception of the sacraments.
3. The participant (or family) should be registered members of the parish in which they are asking for the Quince Años celebration or ask permission from the Pastor to prepare at another parish.
4. The participant should be registered in the parish religious education program presently and the year prior to their Quince Años celebration or be in some faith formation process like Catholic school or authorized home-study.

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Because the Quince Años can be a teachable, evangelizing moment, a pastor or pastor delegate may choose to work with families on an individual basis who do not meet the above requirements.

1. The QuinceAños team leader, staff liaison or pastor may interview the teen and her/his family and make a decision about their preparedness and/or specific areas for the teen and their family to develop. The interview would be to determine if the participant has developed an age appropriate faith in the absence of formal religious education. See **Appendix C** for resource suggestions.
2. Participants may be mentored in the faith by a designated adult advocate prior to their preparation and/or celebration. Most often this will be a member of the Quince Años team or a parish catechist. A basic overview of the Catholic faith should be the focus of such a process since *this would only be invoked in the instance of a participant without any recent religious education experience*. See **Appendix C** for resource suggestions.

ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH QUINCEAÑERA CANDIDATE GUIDELINES

Must be read, filled out and signed before the Blessing can be scheduled

- *Parents of the candidate must be registered parishioners for a minimum of one year (no exceptions)
 - *The Quinceañera candidate must have attended CCD for a minimum of two years. No exceptions.
 - *Parents must give the candidate's baptismal certificate to the DRE office.
 - *A parent must bring, and try on dress for approval
 - ****The dress must be white, other colors are unacceptable—***
No Bare shoulders, No Cleavage showing, and length of dress needs to be below knee.
 - *Conservative attire must be worn in the Sanctuary (family and guest included). Bare shoulders, low cut blouses or skirts above the knees are not allowed.
 - *Parents and candidate must attend orientation a week prior to Blessing.
 - *Quinceañera Blessings will take place at a regularly scheduled mass. Individual masses are not available.
 - *Decorating of the church is not allowed. However, the parents may offer to pay for a flower arrangement to place in front of the altar.
 - * It is a tradition for the candidate to offer flowers to Our Most Blessed Mother at the end of mass. Father Mel will announce when the flowers will be presented.
- Parents, please fill in the information below, and provide baptismal certificate

Child's Name _____ Today's date _____

Parent's Name _____ Phone: _____

_____ Phone: _____

Address _____

E-Mail _____

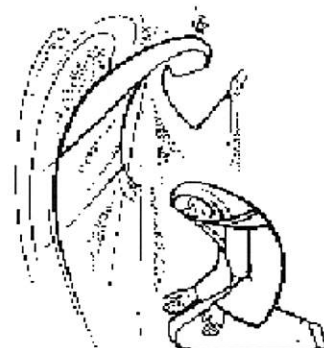
Preferred date for Quinceañera Blessing ____ / ____ / ____

I have read and understand terms for the Quinceañera Blessing.

Parent's Signature _____

Candidate's Signature _____

OFFICE USE ONLY	
<i>TODAY'S DATE</i> _____	
<i>BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE SUBMITTED:</i> _____	
<i>REGISTRATION VERIFIED</i> _____	
<i>QUINCEANERA DATE</i> _____	
<i>APPROVED</i> _____	



IMPORTANT

Please initial after reading each one.

_____ All Quinceañera Blessings are only celebrated during a regularly scheduled mass. Individual masses are not available. No exceptions!

_____ It is highly recommended that the Quinceañera candidate receive the sacrament of reconciliation prior to the ceremony. Reconciliation is scheduled on Saturdays from 3:30-4:30 PM.

_____ The Candidate must arrive 30 minutes before mass begins. She will process in with Father Mel. We will go over the procession once more before Mass begins.

_____ Professional and amateur photographers (family and guest) are welcome but must arrive 30 minutes before mass begins. Anyone arriving after mass has begun will not be allowed to be seated in the reserved or designated areas). Flashes may not be used during the Holy Mass.

_____ Please inform all family and guest that the Catholic Church does not practice open communion. In order to receive Holy Communion, you must be a Roman Catholic in good standing with the Catholic Church and living in a state of grace. If you meet these requirements you are welcome to receive Holy Communion. If you do not meet these requirements, you may receive a blessing instead. You do this by simply walking up and placing your arms across your chest during Holy Communion.

_____ Remember that the Church is the house of God and a house of prayer. Please respect the Church and the people by refraining from talking and by dressing appropriately. *Short or low cut dresses and bare shoulders are not allowed.*

_____ We do NOT allow food, drinks or gum in the church at any time.

_____ Please inform all guests (family, friends, photographers etc.) to turn off all cell phones or electronic devices while in any and all areas of the Church.

_____ No balloons, aisle runners, flower petals, rice confetti, bubbles, etc.

_____ **As the requirements state, the Quinceañera candidate must be registered into religious education classes. Confirmed students are not excluded. There are no exceptions.

EXTRAVAGANCE IS NOT ONLY WASTEFUL BUT CAN ALSO BE SCANDALOUS. THEREFORE, LAVISH RECEPTIONS, LIMOUSINES, ETC ARE STRONGLY DISCOURAGED.

Always remember that having a Quinceañera blessing is truly a blessing for what we should thank our Heavenly Father for giving us the gift of life for He created us in His image and likeness and for calling us to be His daughter through our baptism