

**BAPTISM SPONSOR CERTIFICATE**

Being selected as a Sponsor is a great honor and privilege. You are now entrusted with the sacred duty of witnessing, promoting and enhancing the spiritual development of another Christian. It is very important that the child / candidate you are sponsoring experience your presence and support.

It is the very ancient custom of the Church that at the celebration of the sacrament of Baptism or Confirmation, a sponsor is present. The function of the sponsor is: a) together with the celebrant who baptizes or confirms, to represent the Church in receiving the person into the communion of the Church; and b) to assist the person in Christian initiation. In accord with Canon 874 of the Code of Canon Law, the Church can admit a person to the role of sponsor if, a) he or she is not less than sixteen years of age; and b) is a Catholic who has been confirmed and has already received the blessed Eucharist and lives a life of faith which befits the role to be undertaken, and c) is not either the father or the mother of the person.

Given the functions and role a sponsor exercises, a non-Catholic Christian cannot be admitted as a sponsor; however, he or she can be a witness. A non-Christian cannot serve in this latter capacity, but is welcome to be present at the ceremony. Note that the Catholic seeking to be admitted as a sponsor “lives a life of faith which befits the role to be undertaken.” This phraseology means that the candidate for sponsor: a) sincerely believes and strives to put into practice the Word of God as taught by the Catholic Church; b) regularly takes part in the Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation and c) if married, was married in accordance with the requirements of the Catholic Church.

Consequently,

- Those Catholics who are not actively affiliated with a worshipping community,
- Those Catholics who are invalidly married, as for example, before a Justice of the Peace, or without proper dispensation, before a minister of a Protestant church or before a rabbi,
- Those Catholics who are divorced and invalidly remarried, and
- Those Catholics who have not received confirmation and the blessed Eucharist;

do not qualify to be admitted as a sponsor.

**Affirmation of the Prospective Sponsor**

If therefore, you seek to be admitted as a sponsor and are convinced that you qualify in accord with the conditions listed above, kindly make the following solemn affirmation:

\_\_\_\_\_ *Name of the Candidate*                      \_\_\_\_\_ *Parish*                      \_\_\_\_\_ *Date of the Ceremony*

I, (*sponsor please print your name*) \_\_\_\_\_, a practicing Catholic who seeks to be admitted as a sponsor, solemnly affirm that I fulfill the requirements of the Catholic Church for this role. I intend, with the grace of God, to continue the practice of my Catholic Faith, and I will, to the best of my ability, carry out the obligations of my role as sponsor.

\_\_\_\_\_ *Name of Sponsor's Parish*                      \_\_\_\_\_ *Address*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Sponsor's home mailing address*                      \_\_\_\_\_ *Email address*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Sponsor's Phone*                      \_\_\_\_\_ *Signature of Sponsor*                      \_\_\_\_\_ *Date*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Signature of his/her Pastor*                      \_\_\_\_\_ *Date*                      **CHURCH SEAL**