



CONFIRMATION 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 Confirmation, a sponsor is present. The function of the sponsor is: a) together with the celebrant who 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 worshiping 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