



DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

PARISH OF ST. ISIDORE

TESTIMONY OF DESIGNATED SPONSOR OR GODPARENT

The role of sponsor is an important one for the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. Today some may see the role as honorary, but the Church sees the sponsor, popularly called a godparent, as a fully-initiated Catholic who actively supports the newly Baptized or Confirmed by good example and instruction in the Christian faith.

In order to be admitted to the role of sponsor, the law of the Church directs that a person must be designated specifically by the parents of the infant or the individual who is to be baptized or confirmed. To be a sponsor, a person must be a Catholic, at least sixteen years of age, and have already received the Sacrament of the Most Holy Eucharist and Confirmation. In addition, he or she must be leading a life in harmony with the faith (e.g. participates in the sacraments of the Church, attends Mass on Sundays and Holy Days and has never left the Church or renounced the faith), and not be bound by a canonical penalty (e.g. married outside the Church or divorced and re-married outside the Church).

I _____, declare that I have been chosen to act as a sponsor for _____, who is to receive the Sacrament of Baptism/Confirmation on _____ at the Church of _____ in _____.

In assuming this responsibility, I testify that:

- I am at least sixteen years of age.
- I have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation.
- I am living a life in harmony with the teachings of the Catholic Church in faith and morals (see above).

Understanding the role of sponsor as prescribed by the Church and aware of the obligations and responsibilities of this role, I attest that I am willing and able to accept the role of sponsor in the Catholic Church.

By my signature, I solemnly swear that I fulfill all of the requirements to be a sponsor as described above. I attest to the truth of this statement, so help me God.

Date

Designated Sponsor Signature

TO BE COMPLETED BY SPONSOR'S HOME PARISH:

Parish

Pastor's Signature of Sponsor's Home Parish

Parish Seal

The Requirements of Sponsor

The role of *sponsor* is an important one for the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. The Church sees the *sponsor* as a fully-initiated Catholic who supports the one receiving the sacrament with example and instruction. Because of the seriousness of this ministry, the Church has the following requirements:

- The sponsor must be a fully-initiated member of the Catholic Church through Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation.
- The sponsor must be at least sixteen (16) years of age.
 - ◊ In this case, the Catholic who is younger than 16 must be fully initiated.
- The sponsor must have an active life of faith in the Church and provide good example.
 - ◊ Someone married outside the Church is not able to receive Communion and is not able to be a sponsor.
 - ◊ Also, a Catholic who has left the Church is not able to be a sponsor of a new member into the Church.
 - ◊ Therefore, a Catholic who has left the Catholic Church cannot be a sponsor, and cannot be a “Christian Witness” if they join another Christian communion.
- The sponsor cannot be either parent.
- When there are two sponsors, they are “spiritual parents” and are to be a godfather and godmother.

Christian Witness—(a baptized non-Catholic Christian)

Provided there is one Catholic sponsor, a baptized non-Catholic Christian may serve as a Christian witness for Baptism only. This person is a *Christian witness* and not a *sponsor*.

- Requirements to be a Christian Witness
 - ◊ at least sixteen years old
 - ◊ a validly baptized Christian
 - ◊ living an upright life
 - ◊ cannot be a parent
 - ◊ cannot be a Catholic who has left the Church
- A Christian witness may never be a non-baptized person. For example, Jewish or Muslim godparents are not permitted by universal church law.
- The notation “Christian Witness” is placed under the name of the non-Catholic Christian witness in the baptismal register.