

Due: May 1, 2023



# DIOCESE of CHARLOTTE

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## Godparent/Sponsor Affirmation of Faith and Morals

### I. Some Basic Church Norms Concerning Godparents/Sponsors

It is the very ancient custom of the Church that at the celebration of the sacrament of **Baptism** or **Confirmation**, a godparent/sponsor is present. The function of the godparent/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 support the person in living the Catholic Christian life.

In accord with **Canon 874 of the Code of Canon Law**, the Church can admit a person to the role of godparent/sponsor if: a) he or she is more than sixteen years of age; b) is a baptized Catholic who has been Confirmed, has already received the Blessed Eucharist, and lives a life of faith which befits the role to be undertaken; and c) is neither the father or the mother of the person.

Given the functions and role a godparent/sponsor exercises, a non-Catholic Christian cannot be admitted as a godparent/sponsor; however, he or she can serve as a Christian witness at baptism, provided that there is a Catholic godparent (c. 874 2). A baptized Catholic who is sacramentally or canonically ineligible to serve as a godparent may not serve as a Christian witness. These include those who subsequently renounced the faith in favor of another church community or entity. Those unbaptized and those whose Baptism is not recognized by the Catholic Church may not serve in the role of Christian witness but are welcome to be present at the ceremony.

Note that the Catholic seeking to be admitted as a godparent/sponsor "lives a life of faith which befits the role to be undertaken." This means that the candidate for godparent/sponsor: a) sincerely believes and strives to put into practice the Word of God as taught by the Catholic Church; b) prayerfully assists at Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation; and c) if married, was married in accordance with the requirements of the Catholic Church. One godparent/sponsor is required. Two godparents/sponsors may be appointed provided one is male and the other female.

### II. Individual Criteria for Admittance as a Godparent/Sponsor

A sponsor must be fully initiated into the Catholic faith. When and where did you receive the three Sacraments of Initiation? (Fill in below.) If unsure, a Certificate of Baptism can be requested from your church of baptism and will list the sacraments listed below.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Church of Baptism

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Baptism

\_\_\_\_\_  
Church of First Communion

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of First Communion

\_\_\_\_\_  
Church of Confirmation

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Confirmation

Remember, a godparent/sponsor must be 16 or older— Check here if you are at least 16 years old.

A sponsor must be *canonically free* to carry out this office of godparent/sponsor. This means that Catholics in an invalid marriage (not married according to the laws of the Church) and those cohabitating (living together without marriage) cannot serve as a godparent/sponsor. If you are married, please complete the following questions.

Place of Marriage (church/other): \_\_\_\_\_

City, State: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Marriage: \_\_\_\_\_

**Marriage performed by:**

Priest     Deacon     Minister     Judge     Justice of the Peace     Not married

A sponsor must know the fundamental truths of the Faith and be a practicing Catholic who attends Mass on Sundays and receives the sacraments of Holy Communion and Reconciliation regularly. Based on these guidelines, are you in good standing with the Catholic Church?     YES     NO

**Sponsor's Church Attendance:**

Weekly     Monthly     Occasionally     Seldom     Never

**Religion:** \_\_\_\_\_

If you do not attend Mass weekly, please attach a separate letter explaining the situation.

Name of church you presently attend: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State: \_\_\_\_\_ Pastor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

A sponsor must NOT be the father, mother, step-parent, or custodial guardian of the one to be baptized/confirmed. What is your relationship to the candidate? \_\_\_\_\_

**III. Affirmation of the Prospective Godparent/Sponsor**

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

I, (print) \_\_\_\_\_, a practicing Catholic seeking to be admitted as a godparent/sponsor, solemnly affirm that I fulfill the requirements of the Catholic Church for this role as presented above. 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 godparent/sponsor.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Ceremony

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Baptism/Confirmation Candidate (circle one)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parish, City, and State

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Godparent/Sponsor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Today's Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Godparent's/Sponsor's email address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Godparent/Sponsor's phone number

*This section is to be filled in by the godparent's/sponsor's parish church where they participate.*

I hereby certify that \_\_\_\_\_ is a registered member or lives within the boundaries of this parish; is a practicing Catholic in good standing; and is eligible to serve as  
 godparent for Baptism.  
 sponsor for Confirmation.

Name of Parish: \_\_\_\_\_ Pastor's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Church Seal