

BAPTISM AND/OR CONFIRMATION SPONSOR LETTERS

One of the many benefits of being a Catholic is the opportunity to be a Sacramental sponsor. 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. 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. In accord with Canon 874 of the Code of Canon Law, the Church can admit a person to the role of sponsor if,

- He or she is not less than sixteen years of age.
- He or she 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. • He or she is not either the father or the mother of the person.

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 sincerely believes and strives to put into practice the Word of God taught by the Catholic Church; regularly takes part in the Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligations, and if married, was married in accordance with the requirement of the Catholic Church. Consequently those Catholics who are not actively affiliated with a worshipping community, 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, who are divorced and invalidly remarried, and who have not received confirmation and the blessed Eucharist; do not qualify to be admitted as a sponsor.

If you have any questions about being a Sponsor at Baptism and/or Confirmation, please feel free to contact the Parish Office for additional information.