



ARCHDIOCESE OF HARTFORD

BAPTISM AND/OR CONFIRMATION GODPARENT/SPONSOR AFFIRMATION

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 and 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 (c. 874 §2). A person baptized as a Catholic who is now 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 phraseology 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) 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.

II. 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 full name)* _____, 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.

(PLEASE PRINT)

Date of Ceremony

Name of Baptism or Confirmation Candidate (circle one)

Parish/Town

Signature of Godparent/Sponsor

Today's Date

Godparent's/Sponsor's email address

Godparent/Sponsor's phone number

On completion of this form, please present, mail, or fax to the Priest or Deacon seven (7) days prior to the date the sacrament(s) will be celebrated.