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Dear Friend in Christ:

A friend or family member has honored you by asking you to take on a truly awesome responsibility: to serve as a Sponsor or “Godparent” for a child who is about to be baptized into Jesus Christ and his Church at St. Bernard’s Roman Catholic Church!

The role of Godparent is one that will require of you a serious commitment of time and effort, as you will be, after the parents, the primary model and teacher of the Catholic faith for your Godchild. As none of us can model and teach what we ourselves do not believe and live, we invite you at this time to consider carefully your own readiness to take on this role. It is my responsibility as Pastor to determine as far as possible that those who serve in the “ministry” of Godparent are truly ready to do so!

For this reason, I ask you to please read and give careful thought to the Catholic Sponsor Testimony found on the back of this paper. We hope that after appropriate prayer and reflection you will find yourself able to honestly sign the Testimony! If you have perhaps not been actively living your Catholic faith in recent years, we hope that this invitation to take on the role of Godparent will serve as an opportunity to renew your faith relationship with God in Jesus Christ, and your own parish faith community.

If you believe you are qualified and are ready to take on the responsibilities outlined in the Catholic Sponsor Testimony, please complete and sign the form, and bring it to your parish for your pastor or his delegate to sign. Please return it to your Godchild’s parent/s, as she/he/they will not be able to schedule the Baptism without it. May God bless and guide you as you take on this new “ministry” of Godparent!

In the Lord,

Rev. Ralph Sommer
Pastor



DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

TESTIMONY OF DESIGNATED SPONSOR

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 life.

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 Sacraments of the Most Holy Eucharist and Confirmation. In addition, he or she must be leading a life in harmony with the faith and not be bound by a canonical penalty.

I, _____, declare that I have been chosen to act as a sponsor for _____, who is to receive the Sacrament of Baptism or 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, Confirmation, and Eucharist.**
- **I am living a life in harmony with the teachings of the Catholic Church in faith and morals.**

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

Parish

Pastor/Delegate

Parish Seal:

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