



ARCHDIOCESE
of
NEW YORK

HOLY NAME OF JESUS CHURCH, VALHALLA, NEW YORK

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 fourteen years of age, and have already received the Sacraments of the Most Holy Eucharist and Confirmation. In addition, he/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/Confirmation on _____ at the Church of _____ in _____

In accepting this responsibility, I truthfully state the following:

- *If married, I was married in the Catholic Church;*
- *I am at least fourteen years of age;*
- *I have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation in the Catholic Church;*
- *I attend Mass regularly on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation, and receive the Sacraments of the Church regularly*
- *I am living a life in harmony with the teachings of the Catholic Church in faith and morals*

I understand and accept the responsibility that I undertake as a sponsor, and I promise to be a support and example in his/her efforts to live a Catholic life that reflects the spirit and teaching of the Catholic Church, and I am prepared to assist the parents in their Christian duty by my support, encouragement and prayer.

Name of Sponsor

Signature

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, this person is capable of assuming the duties and responsibilities of the role of a sponsor.

Name of Priest

Signature

Seal of the Church

Date

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, Confirmation and Eucharist.*
- *The sponsor must be at least fourteen (14) years of age.*
 - *In this case, the Catholic who is younger than 14 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. This person is a Christian witness and not a sponsor.

- *Requirements to be a Christian Witness*
 - *At least fourteen years of age*
 - *A validly baptized Christian*
 - *Living an upright life*
 - *Cannot be either 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*