

Role of a Sponsor - A Call to Integrity

Dear Godparent/Sponsor

The role of Godparent at Baptism or Sponsor at Confirmation is more than merely ceremonial. Often times in the past, we could say that the Church had this or that requirement. However, the first question is not whether or not the Church **will permit me to be** a Godparent or Sponsor, but rather whether or not **I can allow MYSELF** to be one! In other words, each of us must ask ourselves if our own **integrity** allows us to stand at the Altar and make a public profession that the faith we speak **in word** is also a **faith in practice!**

The role of Godparent and Sponsor does not demand that you be a canonized saint. All of us must place ourselves within the mercy of God . We all have miles to go in our path of Christian progress. We also know that sometimes it happens that members of families who have stopped attending Mass or who rarely receive the Sacraments suddenly find themselves asked to be a Godparent or Sponsor. If you are in a similar situation, we invite you to let this moment be a real opportunity to grow in the Spirit and in your faith. You could choose to make the signing of the attached form a real grace of change, a moment of re-commitment. You could resolve to sit down with a Priest, Pastoral staff member, or a practicing Catholic family member or friend and chart a new path for your faith.

Perhaps you are not ready for this. If you cannot bring yourself to a renewed practice of your faith then by all means be honest enough to simply ask the relative or friend who asked you to be a Godparent or Sponsor to let you be excused. This is what is meant by a **call to integrity**. Whatever you discern, do so by the grace of God, and not being harder on yourself than the Church herself is.

If we can be of any assistance in your discernment or in nurturing the grace that this occasion provides for you, please give us a call.

Sincerely,

The Priests and Pastoral Staff of
Our Lady of Ransom Parish

Our Lady of Ransom Parish
6701 Calvert Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19149
215 332-6166

CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY FOR GODPARENT AT BAPTISM OR SPONSOR AT CONFIRMATION

I _____ have been invited to be a sponsor at the
Baptism/Confirmation of _____.

I attest that I am:

1. At least 16 years old
2. A Roman Catholic who has received the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation.
3. A registered member of _____
(Name of Parish)

(City and State)
4. A practicing Catholic, who participates in Mass every Saturday/Sunday, receives the Sacrament of Reconciliation regularly and believes and lives according to the teachings of the Church.
5. (If Married) I was married according to the laws of the Catholic Church regarding marriage and am presently living in a valid Marriage. (Persons who are divorced but not remarried outside the Church and not living with someone outside of marriage are eligible.)
6. **DECLARATION OF GODPARENT/SPONSOR**

I, _____, affirm that in all sincerity the above requirements are truly fulfilled. I recognize that during the Sacramental ceremony I will be called upon to renew the promises of my own Baptism; to reject sin and profess my faith in Jesus Christ. I also recognize that this requires that I truly practice my faith by attending Sunday Mass, by prayer, generous concern for others and by living an upright life under the mercy of God. I promise to be the best possible example to _____ in word and deed

Signature of Applicant/Date: _____

Signature of Priest/Date: _____

(Church Seal)