Catholic Diocese of Richmond
Information Regarding Use of the Godparent/Sponsor Attestation Form
for Baptism and Confirmation

Choosing Godparent(s) for Infant Baptism

Dear Parent(s),

Godparents join the parents in presenting the child for Baptism and help the child to lead a Christian life in harmony with the sacrament. The Rite of Baptism for Children asks them,

"Are you ready to help the parents of this child in their duty as Christian parents?"

In helping the baptized child to lead a Christian life through word and example, godparents assist the parents "in their duty." **The Catechism of the Catholic Church** explains further that godparents "must be firm believers, able and ready to help the newly baptized child…on the road of Christian life." In choosing a person to serve as a godparent, parents should consider carefully his (her) capacity to provide this help. See additional requirements below.

Choosing a Sponsor for Confirmation

Dear Candidate,

You have chosen a sponsor to assist you in faithfully fulfilling your baptismal promises with the help of the Holy Spirit. In choosing this sponsor, you recognize their maturity and practice of the faith to help you conform more closely to Christ.

Requirements for Godparents and Confirmation Sponsors

Church Law (Code of Canon Law, can. 874 § 1) requires that the godparent/sponsor be:

- At least 16 years old
- Fully-initiated Catholic (having received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist)
- Not bound by any canonical penalty (e.g. a person who is married must be in a marriage which is recognized by the Church)
- Leading a life of faith befitting the role to be undertaken (regularly attending Mass on Sunday and living the faith)
- Not parents of the child (for infant Baptism)
- May be parent of the candidate (for Confirmation)

Use of the Godparent/Sponsor Attestation Form

These criteria reflect the Church's view that living the faith is taught best by example. Your chosen godparent(s)/sponsor are asked to give witness to meeting these requirements by completing the *Godparent/Sponsor Attestation Form*. Please provide them with this form in a timely manner so that it can be returned to the parish of Baptism prior to the celebration of the sacrament.

Catholic Diocese of Richmond
Richmond, Virginia
Godparent/Sponsor Attestation Form

Congratulations! The witness of your Catholic faith now calls you to a sacred role in the life of a child or candidate for Baptism/Confirmation as a Godparent or Sponsor. You will publicly affirm your intention to support and nurture the faith of this child/candidate during the celebration of the sacrament. Please complete this form to attest to your readiness to accept this role. May God bless you abundantly!

I (print full name) _____ having been chosen as

Godparent/Sponsor for (print name) _____

who will receive the sacrament of: Baptism   Confirmation   (Circle all that apply)

affirm that I meet all the requirements of Canons 874§1 and 893§1 listed below and willingly undertake the role of godparent/sponsor.

Requirements for a Godparent/Sponsor:
Canon 874§1

1. At least 16 years old
2. A fully initiated Catholic (having received sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist)
3. Not bound by a canonical penalty (e.g. a penalty due to an invalid marriage*)
4. Leading a life of faith befitting the role to be undertaken
5. **Not a parent of the child to be baptized**

Canon 893§l - Confirmation
   Fulfill the conditions of Canon 874§1 #1- #4
   5. May be a parent for the candidate for Confirmation (*Rite of Confirmation, Introduction, #5*)

Having read the above requirements, my signature below attests to my eligibility to serve in the role of Godparent/Sponsor and I assume this responsibility willingly. Should I have questions about any of the requirements, I will seek clarification with a parish priest or parish leader.

Godparent/Sponsor signature _____Date _____

Pastor or Delegate signature _____Date _____

Please return this form to the parish Coordinator of the individual to be baptized and/or confirmed. The parish coordinator will complete the necessary information below:

at (name of church) _____

 in (city/state) _____

 on (date) _____

*(e.g. a person who is married must be in a marriage which is recognized by the Church)