

Prince of Peace Parish Sponsor Form

(For Baptism and/or Confirmation)

Candidate for Baptism and/or Confirmation: _____

Name of Sponsor: _____

Parish of Sponsor: _____

Parish Address: _____

City/State/Zip Code: _____

Regulations for Sponsors according to Canon Law

Instructions: In sincerity, please initial to the left that you qualify for the point in question

Note for Confirmation: If possible, it is "desirable to choose as sponsor the one who undertook the same function in baptism.

Note: Can. 872 ... A sponsor also helps the baptized person to lead a Christian life in keeping with baptism and to fulfill faithfully the obligations inherent in it.

Can. 874 §1. To be permitted to take on the function of sponsor a person must:

___ 1/ be designated by the one to be baptized, by the parents or the person who takes their place, or in their absence by the pastor or minister and have the aptitude and intention of fulfilling this function;

___ 2/ have completed the sixteenth year of age, unless the diocesan bishop has established another age, or the pastor or minister has granted an exception for a just cause;

___ 3/ be a Catholic who has been confirmed and has already received the most holy sacrament of the Eucharist and who leads a life of faith in keeping with the function to be taken on;

___ 4/ not be bound by any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared (you would know if you were)

___ 5/ not be the father or mother of the one to be baptized.

Note for Baptism (Christian witness): §2. A baptized person who belongs to a non-Catholic ecclesial community is not to participate except together with a Catholic sponsor and then only as a witness of the baptism.

Signature of Sponsor testifying that everything above is true and that you are in good standing with the Catholic Church _____ Date _____

Signature of Witness: Pastor or Delegate _____ Date _____

Parish Seal

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE SPONSOR FORM

A. INTRODUCTION:

The godparent is a most important person in the life of an infant, child or adult who is to be baptized. The godparent is

1) a spiritual role model, 2) an example of the Christian life and 3) the official representative of the Body of Christ, the Church, into which an infant/child/adult is being baptized.

Because of these three responsibilities, the Catholic Church has some minimum requirements it asks all godparents to fulfill in order to serve in this role. Each godparent is asked to complete the other side of this form using this side of the form to answer the questions.

NOTE ABOUT PROXIES: A godparent is not required to be present for a baptism. When a godparent cannot be present, a Catholic parent or the candidate him/herself may ask someone to stand in as a proxy for the godparent as long as the proxy is not one of the parents.

B. THE QUESTIONS:

1) RELIGIOUS DENOMINATION: A godparent must be a Roman Catholic because the godparent is an official representative of the Catholic Church. Christians of other denominations whose baptism is recognized as valid in the Catholic Church may serve as a Christian Witness for the baptism of a Catholic. Christians whose baptism is not recognized as valid in the Catholic Church and Non-Christians may not serve as a godparent or Christian Witness.

2) MINIMUM AGE: A godparent must generally be 16 by the date of the baptism. For exceptions, see a Catholic priest or the minister who will officiate for the baptism.

3) SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION: A godparent is a baptized Catholic who has received Confirmation and Holy Eucharist in the Catholic Church.

4) FREEDOM TO RECEIVE THE SACRAMENTS: The godparent is a practicing Catholic who is free to receive Holy Communion when he or she comes to Mass.

5) MARITAL STATUS: A Catholic godparent who is married must be in a marriage that is recognized by the Catholic Church. Those in their first marriage must have been married either a) in a Catholic Church ceremony or b) in a church/synagogue ceremony with the permission of the Catholic Church. Catholics in second marriages must have had their first marriage annulled and their second marriage recognized or convalidated by the Catholic Church. Catholics presently in civil or common law marriages are not eligible to serve as a godparent.

6) UNMARRIED STATUS: If unmarried, a godparent must be living a life consistent with a single person as defined by the Catholic Church. Anyone cohabitating with another person, e.g., living in a romantic relationship or as a couple, is ineligible to serve.

C. SIGNING AND RETURNING THE FORM:

Bring the completed by UNSIGNED form to the Catholic Church where the Sponsor is registered and ask a priest, deacon or pastoral minister of that parish to witness you signing the document. This witness must then sign the document and place the parish seal on it.