

## Godparent/Sponsor Requirements

from *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*, General Introduction, pp. xv-xvi

8 “It is a very ancient custom of the Church that adults are not admitted to baptism without godparents, members of the Christian community who will assist the candidates at least in the final preparation for baptism and after baptism will help them persevere in the faith and in their lives as Christians... Godparents are to be present in order to represent both the expanded spiritual family of the one to be baptized and the role of the Church as a mother..”

- 9 “...the part of godparents is to testify to the faith of adult candidates or, together with parents, to profess the Church’s faith, in which children are baptized.”
- 10 “...Godparents must, in the judgment of the parish priest, be qualified to carry out the proper liturgical function mentioned in no. 9.
  1. Godparents are persons, other than the parents of candidates, who are designated by the candidates themselves or by a candidates parents, or whoever stands in the place of parents...  
Each candidate may have either a godmother or a godfather or both...
  2. Those designated must have the capability and intention of carrying out the responsibility of a godparent and be mature enough to do so. A person sixteen years of age is presumed to have the requisite maturity...
  3. Those designated as godparents must also be members of the Catholic Church and be canonically free to carry out this office. At the request of parents, a baptized and believing Christian not belonging to the Catholic Church may act as a Christian witness along with a Catholic godparent.”

from the *Code of Canon Law*, cc. 872-874

### Baptismal Sponsors—

A sponsor assists an adult to be baptized, or assists the parents in presenting an infant for baptism. The sponsor assists the newly baptized in living the Christian life. If two sponsors are chosen, they are to be of different sexes.

The qualifications for serving as a sponsor are:

1. designated for this role by the one to be baptized (or by the parents in the case of an infant);
2. 16 years of age or older (the local bishop may establish a different age...)
3. a Catholic, confirmed and who has received the eucharist, leading a life in conformity with the faith and the role assumed as a sponsor;
4. not bound by any canonical penalty; —e.g. *In need of Marriage Annulment, etc.*
5. not a parent of the one to be baptized.

A baptized person who is not Catholic may serve as a witness to the baptism with a Catholic sponsor.