St. Catherine Labouré - St. Colman Sponsor's Certificate

Requirements of a Sacramental Sponsor/Godparent for Baptism or Confirmation

The purpose of a sponsor (godparent) is to aid the person they sponsor in leading a Christian life in a manner that faithfully fulfills the obligations of Catholic faith. To do this, they themselves must be living the Catholic faith. A godparent should also be someone who will be a part of the person's life after baptism. If they are unable to attend the actual ceremony, a proxy could stand in for them.

The following 5 criteria are required by Church law. A sponsor (godparent) must be:

1) a practicing Catholic*
2) of at least 16 years of age
3) who has already been confirmed and received the most holy sacrament of the Eucharist, and
4) who leads a mature life of faith. While this does not mean they have to be perfect, it does mean that they:
    a. "believe in God and believe all that he has said and revealed to us, and
    b. (all) that Holy Church proposes for our belief,"
    c. attend Mass weekly on Sundays and on Holy Days of Obligation,
    d. (if married) must be married according to the laws fo the Catholic Church,
    e. have a faith that is alive through works of charity (see Catechism of the Catholic Church, par. 1814),
    f. strive to commit their "entire self to God."
5) Only one Catholic sponsor (godparent) is required. If there are two sponsors however (often the case for Baptism), they must be of the opposite gender (godfather and godmother).

The following are not eligible to be sponsors (see Canon law # 874):

1) the father or mother of the person who will receive the sacrament;
2) one who does not practice the faith on a regular basis or
3) who does not accept the authority of the Church or
4) who does not accept all of the teachings of the Church on faith and morals;
5) anyone bound by a canonical penalty. Some examples of this would be: a laicized priest, one living in an invalid marriage (a Catholic who was married outside the Catholic Church), one who has aided in the procurement of an abortion and has not already been absolved by a priest of this crime).

* A baptized, non-Catholic Christian (provided they were never Catholic) may act as a Christian witness for Baptism if alongside of a Catholic godparent. For Confirmation however, the Church only envisions a Catholic sponsor.

Catholic Sponsor's (Godparent's) Statement of Faith

(There is a section on the back for a non-Catholic Christian Witness to sign.)

I affirm on my honor before God that I meet the above requirements to be a sponsor (godparent) for the Sacrament(s) of: _____. I believe in God and all that he has revealed to us, and all that the Catholic Church proposes for our belief. I strive to commit my entire self to God and seek to know and do God's will. I seek to keep my faith alive through works of charity and obedience to God's commandments.
I recognize that as a sacramental sponsor (godparent) for (Name) _____,
I must be a living example of faith. I express my faith by loving God and my neighbor, through private prayer and weekly worship with God's people at Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation, by regularly receiving Eucharist, by regular celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, by accepting and living the teachings of the Catholic Church on faith and morals, and by giving good example.

I affirm that I am a baptized and confirmed Catholic, of at least 16 years of age; am a registered member of _____ parish; if married, have a marriage that is canonically valid and recognized by the Catholic Church; actively support my parish, financially (according to my means) and with my gifts and talents; and that all the above statements are true.

Name _____ Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Address_____

Signature _____ Date _____

Catholic Sponsor (Godparent)

Parish Verification for Catholic Sponsors:

(Not needed for a non-Catholic, Christian Witness. See below.)

This is to certify that (Name of sponsor) _____,

is a registered member of _____ parish and a practicing Catholic who is in good standing canonically with the Catholic Church. They are, to the best of my knowledge, a regular communicant at Sunday Mass and actively support this parish financially (according to their means) and otherwise. I am unaware of anything that would present a problem for them to be a sacramental sponsor/godparent.

Optional comments: _____

_____

_____

Please print pastor's name: _____; Parish Phone _____

Parish Address _____

_____ _____ Pastor's

Signature (with Parish Seal) Date

__ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __

Non-Catholic, Christian Baptismal Witness

(May not be a former Catholic)

I affirm that I meet the following three criteria:

1) ! am a baptized Christian, baptized with water, "in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." Name of church, city & state where you were baptized: _____;

2) I have never been Catholic;

3) I am willing to stand as a Christian Witness for _____ at their baptism.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address_____

Signature _____ Date _____