

Guidelines to be a Sponsor

FIRST, to stand as a witness for the parents' desire to have their child confirmed; and

SECOND, to help the child grow up leading a Christian and Catholic life (cf. canon 872). With this in mind, the Church imposes restrictions on potential sponsor intended to ensure that they can appropriately fulfill this second function. The restrictions appear in canon 874, section 1.

(They must) have completed the sixteenth year of age, unless the Diocesan bishop has established another age, or the pastor has granted an exception for a just cause.

This is to make sure that they are psychologically mature enough to ensure that the child does what a Catholic needs to do—even when it is not easy for the child, and when it is not easy for the sponsor.

(They must) 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:

Cannot be divorced and remarried without benefit of having the previous marriage(s) annulled.

Cannot be cohabitating (living with their fiancé and/or their boyfriend or girlfriend).

Cannot work in an industry or be affiliated with a group or institution that espouses or promotes sentiments, opinions, or produces materials or entertainments that are in conflict with Church teaching.

(They must) not be bound by any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared;

In other words, they have to be in good standing with the Church, and not be at risk of passing on any opinion to the child, or engendering any opinion in the child, which might not be congruent with Church doctrine.

(They must) not be a father or mother of the one to be confirmed.

This is so that the child gets a “second chance” in the event that the parents are (or become) unable or unwilling to raise the child Catholic.

SPONSOR CERTIFICATE

NAME OF PARISH _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE/FAX NUMBERS: _____

As a registered, participating member of above Parish

I, (name of sponsor) _____ affirm that:

1. I qualify for the privilege of Sponsor as I have already received the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation. (Canon 874) *Sponsor initial* _____
2. I participate weekly in the Sunday Mass and give witness to my faith in Christ Jesus by receiving Him in Holy Communion. (This presupposes that if married I have been validly married according to the laws of the Roman Catholic Church.) *Sponsor initial* _____
3. I believe all that the Catholic Church professes and teaches, and I truly make a serious effort to incorporate these teachings in my daily life. I strive to make my commitment to Christ and to the Church visible by participating in parish activities to the extent that I am able, by my financial support and by my loving response to those with whom I come in contact daily as it expected of all the Christian faithful according to Canon 222 of the code of Church Law. *Sponsor initial* _____
4. At this time, when good role models are so lacking for younger people, I realize that I am assuming responsibility to be a good role model for the person I am to be a sponsor to by my life of prayer and by my Christian example. *Sponsor initial* _____

Canon 874. To be admitted to the role of sponsor, a person must be a Catholic who has been confirmed and has already received the sacrament of the Most Holy Eucharist and leads a life in harmony with the faith and the role to be undertaken.

Canon 222. The Christian faithful are obliged to assist with the needs of the Church so that the church has what is necessary for divine worship for the apostolic works and works of charity and for the decent sustenance of ministers.

Signature of Sponsor _____

Signature of Priest _____

(Parish Seal)

Date _____

Please mail to :	OUR LADY OF PEACE PARISH 690 Mount Olivet Road • Wheeling, WV 26003 (304) 242-6579 Fax: (304) 243-5410
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