ARCHDIOCESE of MILWAUKEE

Baptism and Confirmation Sponsor Approval Form

To be a Christian is a team sport. No one is able to grow in the faith by himself or herself. For that reason, the Church encourages parents to surround their children with many faithful adults who can be models, witnesses, and teachers of the faith for them.

Among these many faithful friends, one or two take on an official role in the Church as Baptismal Sponsors (more commonly known as godparents). These individuals commit themselves not only to the child to be baptized and his or her family but to the whole Christian community that they will help to raise the child "to lead a Christian life in keeping with baptism and to fulfill faithfully the obligations inherent in it." (*Code of Canon Law,* canon 872).

Similarly, a person approaching the sacrament of Confirmation chooses a single Sponsor who is "to take care that the confirmed person behaves as a true witness of Christ and faithfully fulfills the obligations inherent in this sacrament" (canon 892). Like a godparent at Baptism, a Confirmation Sponsor takes on a duty not only to the one to be confirmed and his or her family but to the Church at large.

As an office of responsibility and trust in the Church, the official role of Baptismal Sponsor (godparent) or Confirmation Sponsor requires certain qualifications. The purpose of the form on the reverse side of this page is to make sure that the person chosen as a godparent or a Confirmation Sponsor is able and willing to undertake this office in the Church.

The Church wishes many, many people to be involved and invested in the growth and Christian upbringing of every child. While not everyone can or should be an official Sponsor, everyone has something to contribute to the ongoing formation of a young Christian.

Verification of Sponsor Requirements:

Please print your responses.

My name is: _____

I am to be the [circle one] Baptismal / Confirmation Sponsor for:_____

at [parish and city]: _____

Knowing that an oath is sacred, I attest with God as my witness that I am eligible to serve in the role of a Sponsor because I meet ***EACH*** of the following requirements for Sponsors defined in the sacramental norms of the Catholic Church (canon 874).

- ☐ I am able and willing to fulfill this role and its duties as outlined above;
- ☐ I am 16 years old or older;
- ☐ I am a confirmed Catholic who has received the most holy sacrament of the Eucharist;
- ☐ I lead a life of faith in keeping with the role to be taken on (e.g., regularly attending Mass, etc.);
- ☐ I am not bound by any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared (e.g., excommunication);
- ☐ I am not the father or mother of the one to be Baptized or Confirmed;
- ☐ (For those who are married) I was married before a Catholic priest or deacon, or I received prior permission from the Church to be married in a non-Catholic ceremony.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

For office use only

- ☐ I have no reason to doubt the oath of the potential Sponsor
- ☐ The potential Sponsor seems to understand the provided canonical requirements

Sponsor's Pastor or Parish Representative: _____

Sponsor's Parish of Residence [name and city]:_____

Sponsor's Parish Seal: