

## THE ROLE OF SPONSOR – A CALL TO INTEGRITY

Dear Sponsor,

The role of a Sponsor at Confirmation is more than merely ceremonial. Often times in the past, we could say that the Church had this or that **requirement**. The first question is not whether or not the Church **will permit me to be a** Godparent or Sponsor, but rather whether or not **I can allow MYSELF to be one!** In other words, each one of us must ask ourselves if our own integrity allows us to stand at the Altar and make a public profession that the faith we will speak **in words** is also **a faith in practice!**

The role of a Sponsor does not command that you be a canonized saint. All of us must place ourselves within the mercy of God. We all have miles to go in Christian progress, yet we also know that sometimes it happens that members of families, who have stopped attending Mass or who rarely receive the Sacraments, are suddenly asked to fulfill the role of a Sponsor. If you are in a similar situation, we invite you to let this moment be a real opportunity to grow in the Spirit and in your faith. You could choose to make the signing of the eligibility form (found on the form below) a real grace of change, a moment of recommitment. You could resolve to sit down with a Priest, Pastoral staff member, or a practicing Catholic family member or friend and chart a new path in your faith.

Perhaps, you are not ready for this. If you cannot bring yourself to a renewed practice of faith, then by all means, **be honest** with the friend or relative and simply request you be excused from fulfilling the role of a Sponsor. This is what is meant **by a call to integrity**. Whatever you discern, do so by the grace.

If we can be of any assistance in your discernment or in nurturing the grace that this occasion provides for you, please give us a call. It will be a joy to walk this step with you. Thank you for your consideration, thoughts and prayers in arriving at a response to this **call to integrity**.

Sincerely,

*Rev. Edward J. Essig, M.Div.*

Note: those who chose to accept the role of a Sponsor are asked to submit the eligibility form (found below this letter) **signed and sealed by your parish priest**, to the Church where the Sacrament of Confirmation will take place. {For parishioners of *Saint Francis de Sales Church*: please call the office at 610-693-5851 to make an appointment with Father Ed to have this form signed.}

*Saint Francis de Sales Church*  
*321 N. Church Street*  
*Robesonia, Pennsylvania 19551*  
*610-693-5851*

Certificate of Eligibility for a Sponsor

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have been invited to be a sponsor at the **Confirmation**  
Please Print Your Name

Of \_\_\_\_\_  
Please Print Child's Name

I attest that I am:

1. At least 16 years of age
2. A Roman Catholic who has received the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation
3. A registered member of \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Parish

\_\_\_\_\_  
City and State

4. A practicing Catholic, who participates in Mass every Saturday/Sunday, receives the Sacrament of Reconciliation regularly and believes and lives according to the teachings of the Church.
5. If married, I was married according to the laws of the Catholic Church regarding marriage and I am presently living in a valid marriage. Persons who are divorced but not re-married outside the church are eligible.
6. Persons living with someone outside of marriage are NOT eligible to be Godparents or Sponsors.
7. **DECLARATION OF GODPARENT/SPONSOR:**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, affirm that in all sincerity, the above requirements are truly fulfilled. I recognize that during the Sacramental ceremony, I will be called to **renew the promises of my own Baptism; to reject sin and profess my faith in Jesus Christ**. I also recognize that this requires I truly practice my faith by attending Sunday Mass, by prayer, generous concern for others and by living an upright life under the mercy of God. I promise to be the **best possible example to** \_\_\_\_\_ in word and deed.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Please Print Child's Name

Signature of applicant \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Church Seal

Signature of Priest/Pastoral Assistant \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_