

# Immaculate Conception of the B.V.M. Roman Catholic Church

Roman Catholic Diocese of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania  
106 Carlisle Street, New Oxford, PA 17350-1102  
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## Confirmation Sponsor Certification Form

*Please read the following carefully, sign and have your parish priest/deacon certify.*

The Catholic Church requires that all those who assume the responsibilities and obligations of sponsorship for the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation practice their religion faithfully and are exemplary in their conduct as members of the Roman Catholic Church. Consequently, letters of approbation will be issued only to persons able to make the following affirmations and agreements. I hereby affirm that:

YES  NO I am a Roman Catholic, who is a registered, financially supporting and participating member of my parish and the Roman Catholic Church. **Year Registered in the Parish:** \_\_\_\_\_

YES  NO I have been asked to be a Godparent/Sponsor for the Sacrament of Baptism/Confirmation and I am **not** the father or the mother of the one to be baptized/confirmed. (Can. 874, §1, 1° and 5°)

YES  NO I have or will attained the required minimum age of sixteen years at the time of the sacramental celebration at which I have been asked to serve as a Godparent/sponsor. (Can 874, §1, 2°)

YES  NO I have received the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist, and I have received the Sacrament of Penance (Confession) when necessary. (Can 874, §1, 3°)

**MARRIED:**  YES  NO

\*\* **IF MARRIED**, I have been validly married in accord with all Roman Catholic Church laws, Norms and Principles (i.e., married by a Catholic priest or deacon, married by other minister with proper dispensation from the Catholic Church; had marriage validated by the Catholic Church). [ref. Can. 874, §1, 4°]  YES  NO

**Catholic Church:** \_\_\_\_\_ **City/State:** \_\_\_\_\_

YES  NO I believe and hold true all the official teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.

YES  NO I realize that I assume a great responsibility before God and Church in becoming a sponsor. I promise to give support and guide the person I am sponsoring by my prayers, especially by my own example of my daily life.

*As a practicing Roman Catholic, I understand that I am also responsible in the following areas of my own faith life:*

YES  NO To weekly participate in the Saturday evening or Sunday Mass and support my parish. I witness my Faith in Jesus Christ by receiving the Sacraments of Penance and Holy Eucharist on a regular basis. To keep the Holy Days of Obligation. During Lent, to do penance, abstain from meat on Fridays, and fast on the days appointed.

YES  NO I am not cohabitating (living outside of marriage with someone).

YES  NO If I have children, that I am rearing or have reared them in the Catholic Faith by preparing them for reception of the Sacraments, enrolling them in religious education, and see to it that they attend.

YES  NO To actively strive to live out my own baptismal commitment to Christ, to study my faith and do my best to share the teachings of Christ with others, both by my words and actions, and to do all in my power to give witness of the love of Jesus by my lifestyle.

SPONSOR CERTIFICATE FOR: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Print Full Name of Candidate)

**I swear that by my signature I am attesting to the TRUTH of all these statements and declare that I fulfill the Roman Catholic Church's requirements. I commit to the responsibility of acting as a Sponsor.**



Sponsor's Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parish Name/Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(please print)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

As a **PRIEST** responsible for the welfare of God's people and the integrity of Christian faith, I hereby testify that the person whose signature is above is a registered member of my parish and is in good standing in this parish, is living according to the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church and is qualified as a worthy Sponsor for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Attested by \_\_\_\_\_

Pastor / Administrator / Parochial Vicar

**(Parish Seal)**

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CHURCH LAW requires that a candidate for Baptism/Confirmation - for membership in the Church community – is to be sponsored by a fully initiated member of the Catholic Church who is willing and able to help the individual develop and grow in the Catholic Faith. A baptized Christian non-Catholic may not be a Confirmation sponsor. Also Non-baptized persons may not officially act as a sponsor or witness to a Baptism of an individual in the Catholic faith.

Therefore, because of the great responsibilities of a Sponsor, the Catholic Church has some minimum requirements it asks of all Sponsors to fulfill in order to serve in this role. These are set forth in the Code of Canon Law:

### **SPONSORS/GODPARENTS**

**Can. 872.** Insofar as possible, a person to be baptized is to be given a sponsor who assists an adult in Christian initiation or together with the parents presents an infant for baptism. A sponsor also helps the baptized person to lead a Christian life in keeping with baptism and to fulfill faithfully the obligations inherent in it.

**Can. 873.** There is to be only one male sponsor or one female sponsor or one of each.

**Can. 874 §1.** To be permitted to take on the function of sponsor a person must:

- be designated by the one to be baptized, by the parents or the person who takes their place, or in their absence by the pastor or minister and have the aptitude and intention of fulfilling this function;
- have completed the sixteenth year of age, unless the diocesan bishop has established another age, or the pastor or minister has granted an exception for a just cause;
- 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;
- not be bound by any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared; not be the father or mother of the one to be baptized.

### **Regarding the questions:**

1. **RELIGIOUS DENOMINATION:** A sponsor must be a Roman Catholic because the Sponsor is an official representative of the Catholic Church. Christians of other denominations whose baptism is recognized as valid in the Catholic Church may serve as a Christian Witness for the baptism of a Catholic (not Confirmation). Christians whose baptism is not recognized as valid in the Catholic Church and Non-Christians may not serve as a godparent or a Sponsor.
2. **MINIMUM AGE:** A godparent must generally be 16 by the date of the baptism. (exceptions by pastor may be made with valid reason.)
3. **SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION:** a godparent/Sponsor is a baptized Roman Catholic who has received Confirmation and Holy Eucharist in the Catholic Church.
4. **FREEDOM TO RECEIVE THE SACRAMENTS:** The godparent is a practicing Roman Catholic who is free to receive Holy Communion when he or she come to Mass.
5. **MARITAL STATUS:** A Catholic Sponsor who is married must be in a marriage that is recognized by the Catholic Church. Those in their first marriage must have been married either a) in a Catholic Church ceremony or b) in a church/synagogue ceremony with the permission of the Catholic Church. Catholics in second marriages must have had their first marriage annulled and their second marriage recognized or convalidated by the Catholic Church. Catholics presently in civil or common law marriages are not eligible to serve as a Sponsor.
6. **UNMARRIED STATUS:** If unmarried, a godparent/sponsor must be living a life consistent with a single person as defined by the Catholic Church. Anyone cohabitating with another person, e.g. living in a romantic relationship or as a couple, is ineligible to serve.