



ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY CHURCH

2 North Eighth St., Lebanon, PA 17046 (717) 272-5674

I, _____, a registered member of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, Lebanon/Our Lady of Fatima Mission, Jonestown have been asked to stand as a sponsor for _____.

In accepting this responsibility, I truthfully affirm the following statements:

___ I am not a parent or stepparent of the person mentioned above.

___ I am at least 16 (sixteen) years of age.

___ I have received the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist) in the Catholic Church.

___ If married, my marriage was witnessed by a Catholic Priest or Deacon, or by a Christian minister with proper dispensation of the Bishop of the Diocese in which I was married.

___ I actively practice my faith by regularly attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation, and I frequently receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation (Confession) and the Holy Eucharist.

I understand and accept the responsibility of being a sponsor.

Therefore, I make this declaration:

In the name of the Lord God, I declare that I fulfill the above requirements. I am a practicing Catholic; I am consistent in my Sunday worship of God at the Liturgy; and I support my parish in its endeavors. I promise to support and be a good example to _____, in his/her effort to live a Catholic life that reflects the spirit and teaching of Christ and His Church.

Signature of Sponsor

Date

I certify declarant is a registered member of Assumption B.V.M. Parish/Our Lady of Fatima Mission.

Signature of Pastor

Date

ON BEING A SPONSOR IN THE CATHOLIC FAITH

CONGRATULATIONS! Someone has appreciated your faith enough to ask you to share that faith with him or her or with their child. Certainly, you feel honored. The Catholic Church values godparents/sponsors so much that you should be very clear about what your role of sponsoring someone for Baptism or Confirmation involves.

This is what Canon Law, the official law of the Church, states in Canons 872-874:

The one to be baptized is to be given a sponsor who will ... help the baptized to lead a Christian life in harmony with Baptism, and to fulfill faithfully the obligations connected with it. To be admitted to the role of sponsor, a person must ... have completed the sixteenth year, and must be a Catholic who has been baptized, 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.

The above Canon Law also applies to the sponsor of a person being Confirmed.

As you can see, being a godparent or a sponsor is far more than an honorary role. You will be a living pattern of what a Christian is and how we call upon God in prayer. From you, this person will discover a sense of Church: they will learn of repentance, justice to the poor, the victory of the cross, hunger for the Eucharist, a love for the Sacraments and the many other ways God's love gives us new life. In other words, you will represent to this person the rest of the Church, the communion of Saints to which the newly baptized will belong, and among whom the newly confirmed will be strengthened by the Holy Spirit. The individual you are sponsoring (and his/her parents) will know that he/she is not alone in the quest to know God and to do God's will.

What are your hopes and dreams for your godchild? What do you most want to give them? What graces have you been given that you can share? What are God's answers to these questions? What role did your own godparents play in your discovery of God and in your religious formation? Do you want to be the same way to your godchild? What does it mean to "lead a life in harmony with the role of godparent"?

Even if distance or circumstances separate you from your godchild, you can do a simple thing such as sending a card of remembrance and encouragement on the yearly anniversary of their Baptism or Confirmation. How many other ways can you "be there" for them? How might you be needed throughout their life to be a mentor - a guide - a companion - a listener - an example - a teacher - a friend? How might you need to be comforting, challenging, encouraging, forgiving? Please know that you can call upon your priests and/or deacons if we can be of any help in discerning how to best fulfill this very important role in the Church.

One thing we know for sure: you cannot fulfill this role without prayer and the regular reception of the Eucharist and the other Sacraments. Your best resource in helping this person to live their faith well is for **you** to live **your** faith well. If you remain active in the Church and keep growing in your faith and love for God, you can't go wrong.

Once again, CONGRATULATIONS! and GOD BLESS YOU!