

# GODPARENT INFORMATION SHEET

## SO YOU ARE GOING TO BE A GODPARENT!

- Thank you for answering the call to be a Godparent! The following information will tell you more about the requirements and responsibilities of this special role. May God bless you, and the child you will help guide spiritually in the Catholic faith.

## WHAT IS THE ROLD OF THE GODPARENT?

- Being a Godparent is an honor and comes with the considerable responsibility of supporting the parents in raising the child in the Catholic faith.
- Along with parents, a Godparent presents the child at baptism and serves as a role model according to the General Introduction to Christian Initiation.
- The Code of Cannon Law suggests, but does not require, that the sponsor for baptism also be the sponsor for confirmation.

## WHO CAN BE A GODPARENT?

- There are five qualifications a Godparent must meet, according to the Coe of Cannon Law (874):
  1. Be chosen by the parents or guardians of the child, or, in their absence, by the pastor or minister of the sacrament.
  2. Normally must be at least 16 years old.
  3. Have received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist and be a Catholic of good standing, leading a life in harmony with the faith.
  4. Be someone other than the child's parents.
  5. Not be bound by any penalty imposed by the Church.
- A sponsor who is unable to attend the baptism may have a representative (Proxy) take his/her place. In such a case, the sponsor must write a letter stating that he/she is willing to be a sponsor.

## HOW MANY GODPARENTS CAN A PERSON HAVE?

- A person can have one or two Godparents of record; either one male or one female Godparent, or one of each, according to Code of Canon Law (873). **Canon law prohibits two Godparents of the same sex or more than two Godparents of record.**
- An unlimited number of additional people may participate in the baptism as witnesses.

## CAN A CHRISTIAN WHO IS NOT A CATHOLIC SERVE AS A GODPARENT?

- A non-Catholic cannot serve as a Godparent, according to the Code of Canon Law (874), but he or she can participate in the baptism as a witness. If a non-Catholic, Christian witness is chosen, the other Godparent must be a practicing Catholic.