



St. Vincent Ferrer Important Sponsor Information

For the grace of Baptism to unfold, the parents' help is important. So too is the role of the godfather and godmother, who must be firm believers, able and ready to help the newly baptized - child or adult on the road of Christian life. Their task is a truly ecclesial function (officium). The whole ecclesial community bears some responsibility for the development and safeguarding of the grace given at Baptism (CCC 1255).

A sponsor or godparent is to be a witness, an inspiration, and an example of how a Catholic should live in today's world. They are entrusted with the responsibility to be an active participant in the life of the Church and the person they are sponsoring. This means proclaiming their faith through their actions and the life they lead each and every day. Through their personal witness of prayer, active attendance at weekly Mass, and living the Gospel values, they pass the Catholic faith on to others. In this light, at least one sponsor must be an active, practicing Catholic who has been Baptized and Confirmed. For Baptism, a person of the opposite gender, who is a baptized non-Catholic Christian could be designated as a Christian witness.

The required qualifications of a sponsor are stated in Church Law and it is the duty of the pastor to verify their eligibility. Most parishes, therefore, provide a specific form for this purpose (See reverse side). It is the obligation of the parish where the sponsor is registered, to verify that they are both an active and practicing Catholic. If the sponsor is not personally known by the pastor, he may need evidence to support that a sponsor is living a life of faith. This is usually provided by reviewing records and other verifiable sources such as involvement in parish ministries, volunteer time at various parish functions and offertory envelopes to verify weekly attendance at Mass. Please do not assume that a parish will automatically provide a letter without the ability to confirm a sponsor's attendance, support, and participation.

ST. VINCENT FERRER CATHOLIC CHURCH SACRAMENT SPONSOR FORM

(To be considered for sponsorship, all information in this form must be truthful and complete.)

I wish to be a sponsor for: _____ Baptism Confirmation
First Middle Last

MY NAME (Sponsor)* _____
First Middle Last

*(Must be at least 16 years of age)

If the sponsor is away at school, the campus chaplain or official campus ministry head may verify the sponsor's eligibility via a signed letter to the home pastor.

Sponsor's Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Country _____

Sponsor's Phone (_____) - _____ E-mail _____

I submit the following as evidence that I am living a life of faith: The pastor will need to verify the following to determine your SPIRITUAL QUALIFICATIONS as a sponsor. You must have received the Sacraments of Initiation, and (if married) be in a Catholic Church recognized marriage. St. Vincent Ferrer parish defines "living a life of faith" as one who is registered and worshipping at his/her parish on a regular (weekly) basis; and one who contributes time, talent and financial resources to help support the parish and the Catholic Church of the diocese.

Ministry Involvement YES NO List Group(s) _____

Received the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist & Confirmation YES NO Attend Mass Weekly YES NO

Financial Support of parish YES NO Please Explain _____

(N.B., If you answered "NO" to any of the above questions, you probably are ineligible to currently act as a sponsor since it presumes weekly attendance at Mass and to be an active and contributing member of the parish.)

OR

I wish to serve as a Christian Witness for baptism. I am a baptized, practicing member of the following Christian denomination:

I am Single Married* Divorced Widowed

*(If married, please provide the name and location of the Catholic Church)

_____ *Church City Date of Marriage*

Name of my home parish (church) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Are you registered at this parish (church)? YES NO Name of Pastor/Minister _____

I have truthfully answered the questions above: _____
Signature of applicant (sponsor)

Pastors must ascertain the spiritual qualifications of sponsors. The sponsor for any candidate must:

- 1° be appointed by the candidate for baptism, or by the parents or whoever stands in their place, or failing these, by the parish priest or the minister; to be appointed the person must be suitable for this role and have the intention of fulfilling it;
- 2° be not less than sixteen years of age, unless a different age has been stipulated by the diocesan Bishop, or unless the parish priest or the minister considers that there is a just reason for an exception to be made;
- 3° be a catholic who has been confirmed and has received the blessed Eucharist, and who lives a life of faith which befits the role to be undertaken;
- 4° not labor under a canonical penalty, whether imposed or declared;
- 5° not be either the father or the mother of the person to be baptized. (Canon #874)

As Pastor, I **ascertain** that this person lives a life of faith in both word and deed, and is able to perform the duties of a Sacramental Sponsor.

As Pastor, I am **unable to ascertain** that the proposed Sponsor lives a Christian life of faith befitting the role of a Sacramental Sponsor.

(Affix Church Seal)

Pastor's Signature

Date