

**St. Peter Congregation**  
208 East Washington Street, Slinger, Wisconsin 53086  
1-262-644-8083                      1-262-644-7951 (Fax)

*(This form must be taken by the sponsor to their parish priest/deacon/director for them to complete, sign, seal and return before celebration of sacrament.)*

**SPONSOR CERTIFICATE**

Name of person to be baptized \_\_\_\_\_

Or

Name of person to be confirmed \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

As a registered member of \_\_\_\_\_

Parish in: \_\_\_\_\_ (City), \_\_\_\_\_ (State), \_\_\_\_\_ (Zip)

I affirm that I fulfill the requirements expected of a sponsor (c. 874):

- a.) I have been named by the one to be baptized/confirmed or, in case of a child, the child's parents or guardians;
- b.) I am at least sixteen years of age;
- c.) I am a Catholic who has celebrated all sacraments of initiation (baptism, holy communion, and confirmation);
- d.) I am a practicing Catholic (attends Mass on all Sundays and holy days of obligation, goes to confession at least 1X yearly, receives Holy Communion at least 1X yearly during Easter season, observes established days of fast and abstinence, and helps provide for the material needs of the Church);
- e.) I am not a parent of the person to be baptized or confirmed;
- f.) I am free of any canonical penalty preventing full participation in the sacramental life of the church (if married, in a valid/sacramental marriage);
- g.) If possible, I will participate in any preparation programs through prayer, attending sessions to which I may be invited, & conscious Christian example.

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

Parish Priest's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

- Imprint Parish Seal -

## **WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT FOR SPONSORS TO BE REGISTERED IN A PARISH?**

Parish membership is an indication that we take our faith seriously. The early Church understood the importance of a communal identity in Christ and the Faith was spread because the Apostles formed communities – churches – in various cities. The community was charged with carrying on the work of Jesus and spreading the good news. They relied on one another for support in difficult times, both spiritual and material support. St. Luke wrote: “They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers.” (Acts of the Apostles 2:42) Therefore, from the very beginning, communal identity was foundational to being a Christian.

In fact, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* quotes St. John Chrysostom: “You cannot pray at home as at church, where there is a great multitude, where exclamations are cried out to God as from one great heart, and where there is something more: the union of minds, the accord of souls, the bond of charity, the prayers of the priests” (#2179). Parish life helps nourish our faith and gives us the means to continue to grow in faith.

Church law states that for a person to be a sponsor they must be at least 16 years of age, Catholic, & fully initiated (that is, having already received the sacraments of baptism, confirmation and Eucharist), and living a life of faith that gives witness to this initiation (#874). Being a member of a parish faith community connects us to the life of the Church and allows us to witness to our initiation. Particular law of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee states that it is the responsibility of every adult Catholic 18 years and older to be certain they are registered in the parish of the territory in which they have residence or in a parish of personal choice; they are to look to that parish for all their spiritual needs, such as, baptisms, weddings, funerals, anointing at times of illness, etc. Each parish keeps a formal listing of all registered members as this is a practical necessity for efficient functioning.

If we are disconnected from parish life, then to what do we witness? How can we sponsor someone into something that we do not believe in enough to participate in? Giving authentic witness means that we live what we say we believe.

## **AND, IF I DON'T BELONG TO A PARISH NOW, WHAT CAN I DO?**

**You may ...**

Take this opportunity to register at the parish where you most frequently worship. If the priest is familiar with your attendance and your participation, he may be willing to sign the sponsor certificate;

**Or,**

If you have very recently changed locations, you may wish to contact your former pastor and see if he may be willing to sign your certificate. At the same time you'll want to register as a member at the parish nearest your new location or register in the alternate parish you may have chosen.