

Baptismal Sponsors

When you bring your child to Holy Baptism, you will be asked to fulfill these obligations:

In Christian love you have presented _____ for Holy Baptism. You should, therefore, faithfully bring him/her to the services of God's house, and teach him/her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments.

As _____ grows in years, you should provide for his/her instruction in the Christian faith, that, living in the covenant of his/her Baptism and in communion with the Church, he/she may lead a godly life until the day of Jesus Christ.

What is the point of all this? The point is that there is always a strong connection between Baptism and faith. On the one hand, Baptism is the time when God will give his gift of the Holy Spirit and he will begin to create and awaken faith in this little person whom he calls his child. On the other hand, this sacrament is always to be received in faith...that is, that you who answer for the child on this special day must do so in faith. You need to be aware of God's action in your own life so that you will be ready to help your child understand God's action in his/her life.

As parents, you are accepting a great responsibility as you bring your child to Baptism. In the early Christian church, because of the persecution that made life so uncertain, parents would often ask "sponsors" to share this responsibility for the Christian growth of the child should anything happen to the parents. It is a tradition which has continued within the church...a good tradition. Today, the threat of persecution is in most instances slight, but sponsors or "god-parents" still offer faithful support, and if the need should arise, can still assume responsibility for the child's Christian upbringing.

As you choose the "sponsors", think about their responsibilities. Are they Christians? Do they exhibit the faith which you want your child to grow into? Are they willing to assume the responsibility of sharing in your child's Christian growth? The "sponsor" is an important person in the life of your child...choose carefully...do not be tempted to choose certain people, whether fri

ends or family, just because it is expected. As you ask someone to be a "sponsor", they might well ask what you expect of them. Ask them to remember your child in their prayers. As them to remember your child on special days, especially each year on his/her baptismal day...perhaps a card, a Baptismal candle to be lit on each anniversary, the framing of the Baptismal certificate, the making of a special banner. You as parents may seek to invite "sponsors" to be present at other important times...Bible Sunday, First Communion, and Confirmation. But most of all, the

“sponsors” fulfill responsibility as they live out their Christian faith. It is true: children learn from what you do, not necessarily what you say. Baptism and the presence of God in your child’s life will take on special meaning if they see that very presence as an important part of the lives around them...in you as parents and “sponsors”.