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Statement of Eligibility to be a Godparent or Confirmation Sponsor

To be chosen as a Sponsor for Baptism or Confirmation is a great honor that carries with it great responsibility, namely, to instruct, to encourage and to inspire the newly baptized or confirmed Catholic to live an authentic Christian life. It will be your role to help first the parents and then the newly (baptized/confirmed) to lead a life in harmony with the Gospel. We ask that you review and sign the reverse side of this form for Church Canon Law concerning Sponsors.

Please read the following and pray about the responsibilities you will be fulfilling in this person's spiritual life. After reflection, please sign this Statement of Eligibility and return it to Espiritu Santo for the Pastor's letter of permission.

- | <u>Yes</u> | <u>No</u> | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | I am 16 years of age or older. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | I have been baptized and confirmed as a Roman Catholic. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | I am a registered member of Espiritu Santo Catholic Church since _____. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | I regularly attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of obligation and receive Holy Communion. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | I actively support my parish through use of my gifts of time, talent and treasure. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Answer <u>only if married</u> . My marriage is valid in the Catholic Church. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | I lead a life in harmony with the Roman Catholic Faith and the role of Sponsor. |

I testify that I have answered the above questions truthfully, acknowledging that I fulfill/wish to fulfill the Catholic Church's requirements as a Baptismal Godparent or/Confirmation Sponsor. I understand the responsibility I am undertaking and I will do all in my power to assist in the Christian Catholic formation of the person I intend to sponsor, named below, by Christian Catholic example of my own life, by my prayers for him/her, and by ensuring his/her continued growth in living and learning the Catholic Faith.

Print Your Name: _____ Telephone (____) _____ - _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Candidate Name: _____ Sacrament: Baptism Confirmation

Church where Sacrament will be made: _____

Address of the Church: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Today's Date: _____ Your Signature: _____

Pastor's Permission letter to be:

- sent to Espiritu Santo's Baptism/Religious Ed Office
- mailed to the above Church where sacrament will be made
- mailed to my home address (indicated above)
- picked up by me. Please call me when ready at: (____) _____ - _____

**From the Code of Canon Law (Effective First Sunday of Advent 1983)
Excerpts from Page 161 & 164, Book IV, Sponsors for Baptism and Confirmation.**

Chapter IV – Sponsors

Can. 872 In so far as possible, a person being baptized is to be given a sponsor who is to assist an adult in Christian initiation, or, together with the parents, to present an infant at the baptism and who will help the baptized to lead a Christian life in harmony with baptism, and to fulfill faithfully the obligations connected with it.

Can. 873 Only one male or one female sponsor or one of each sex is to be employed.

Can. 874

1. To be admitted to the role of sponsor, a person must:
 - a. Be designated by the one to be baptized, by the parents or the one who takes their place or, in their absence, by the pastor or minister and is to have the qualifications and intention of performing this role.
 - b. Have completed the sixteenth year, unless a different age has been established by the diocesan bishop or it seems to the pastor or minister that an exception is to be made for a just cause.
 - c. Be a Catholic who has been 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.
 - d. Not be bound by any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared.
 - e. Not be the father or mother of the one to be baptized
2. A baptized person who belongs to a non-Catholic ecclesial community may not be admitted except as a witness to baptism and together with a Catholic sponsor.

Can. 892 As far as possible a sponsor for one to be confirmed should be present; it is for the sponsor to see that the confirmed person acts as true witness to Christ and faithfully fulfills the obligations connected with this sacrament.

Can. 893

1. To perform the role of sponsor, it is necessary that a person fulfill the conditions mentioned in Can. 874.
2. It is desirable that the one who undertook the role of sponsor at baptism be sponsor for confirmation.

***** I have read and understand the Canon Law Requirements for being a Sponsor. *****

Signature: _____

Date: _____