

BAPTISMAL GOD-PARENTS

Some Information and Criteria

- ❖ There must be one god-parent (sponsor) for Baptism; there can be two
- ❖ There can be one male or one female god-parent (sponsor) or there can be one male and one female god-parent (sponsor)
- ❖ A god-parent (sponsor) must be:
 - Ordinarily at least 16 years old
 - A confirmed Catholic who practices his/her faith
 - Someone other than the mother or father of the child
- ❖ Our tradition has usually desired a god-mother and a god-father for an infant or other young child who is being baptized.
- ❖ As long as there is one Catholic god-parent (sponsor) for a Baptism, a baptized non-Catholic, preferably of the opposite sex of the god-parent, can be a Christian witness to the Baptism.
- ❖ If parents want more than two persons to stand up for their child at Baptism, the additional person, whether Catholic or baptized non-Catholic will be a Christian witness.
- ❖ The role of the god-parent is to show that the Church's concern for the faith of the newly baptized goes beyond that of the child's immediate family. The role of the god-parent is fulfilled when the god-parent shares our faith with the god-child by living it in his/her daily life.
- ❖ The role of the Christian witness is to show his/her concern for the faith of the spiritual well-being of the newly baptized as the child grows. The Christian witness does this by living his/her faith in his/her daily life.