

- ✦ *Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?*
- ✦ *Answer: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.*
- ✦ *Will you, then, love God with all your heart, with all your mind, and with all your strength, and your neighbour as yourself?*
- ✦ *Answer: I will, with God's help.*
- ✦ *Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?*
- ✦ *Answer: I will, with God's help.*
- ✦ *Will you persevere in resisting evil and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?*
- ✦ *Answer: I will, with God's help.*
- ✦ *Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?*
- ✦ *Answer: I will, with God's help.*
- ✦ *Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?*
- ✦ *Answer: I will, with God's help.*

It is very important to note that the response ***I will, with God's help***, shows that none of us is able to live this life in his or her own strength, but only by God's power. In all of this we are not saying we are perfect, but sinners wanting to go in God's direction by his help.

Godparents are encouraged to:

- ✦ pray for their godchildren regularly and frequently (for their spiritual, emotional and physical health and development and any special needs)
- ✦ keep in close contact with them at least until they come to be confirmed in their teens or later (and to be present, if possible, at their first communion and confirmation)
- ✦ provide them with Christian literature appropriate to their level of understanding
- ✦ support them in developing a spiritual routine (regular church attendance and involvement, a daily devotional life of Bible-reading and prayer, service to others, etc.)
- ✦ help their growth in Christ in other ways (e.g. making it possible for them to attend Christian youth activities or a Christian camp).

A double blessing:

Having spiritual responsibility for another is a great obligation and also a great benefit. Not only are you being used by God in the eternal destiny of your godchild, but also the responsibility can help you develop and remain firm in your own commitment to Christ.

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To know
 Christ and to
 make Him
 known

Guidelines For Sponsors/ Godparents





Primary requirements and responsibilities

Being chosen as a godparent for a child is a great privilege and responsibility. As far as the Church is concerned, the primary responsibility of the godparent is to pray for the child and help him/her come to know Jesus and to live for him. Because of this, in the baptismal service godparents are required to make certain commitments and promises:

- ✦ *Will you be responsible for this child, to see that he/she is brought up in Christian faith and life?*
- ✦ *Will you, by your prayers and witness support his/her growth in Christ?*

To which the godparent replies,

- ✦ *I will, with God's help.*

This means that godparents need to be practising baptized Christians, regular members of their own churches with a life of prayer and involvement. This does not mean that members of other religions (eg. Jewish, Muslim, etc.) or who are agnostic or of no faith are not good people, fully capable of being loving and caring, but that such persons would be unable to commit themselves in this way. (After all, you can not introduce someone to a person you do not know yourself.)

This is confirmed by the renunciations and commitments then required of godparents responsible for helping the child they are sponsoring come to a position where they can make the promises for him- or herself.

The renunciations:

- ✦ *Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?*
- ✦ ***Answer: I renounce them.***
- ✦ *Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?*
- ✦ ***Answer: I renounce them.***
- ✦ *Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?*
- ✦ ***Answer: I renounce them.***

These renunciations imply that godparents are actively seeking to live out the life of freedom from sin that Christ has won for us.

By making these renunciations godparents are saying that they wish to leave behind lifestyles inconsistent with the Christian faith (e.g. occultic practices, exploitation of others, couples living together without the benefit of Christian marriage, persons bearing deep grudges towards others, etc.).

The commitments:

- ✦ *Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Saviour?*
- ✦ ***Answer: I do.***
- ✦ *Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?*
- ✦ ***Answer: I do.***
- ✦ *Celebrant: Do you promise to obey him as your Lord?*
- ✦ ***Answer: I do.***

These commitments to follow Christ as Saviour and Lord, imply that godparents are seeking to put Jesus at the centre of their lives and relationships. These renunciations and commitments are further fleshed out in the following questions:

- ✦ *Do you believe in God the Father?*
- ✦ ***Answer: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.***
- ✦ *Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?*
- ✦ ***Answer: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.***