

## THE ROLE AND REQUIREMENT OF GODPARENTS OR SPONSORS ACCORDING TO CANON LAW

**Can. 872** – Insofar as possible, one to be 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:**

- 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;
- **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;
- **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;**

(Thus, people who do not participate regularly in the Eucharist, or who are living in marriages not recognized by the Catholic Church may not be qualified to function as sponsors.)

- Not be bound by a canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared;
- Not be the father or the 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.**