



St. Thomas Aquinas  
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## The Role of the Godparent – A Call to Leadership and Integrity

Dear Godparent,

The role of the Godparent at Baptism is so much more than simply a position of honor. The godparent has the awesome task of nurturing the new Catholic in conjunction with the child's parent and providing him/her with all the tools necessary to become a saint. They are called to show the child a good example of the Christian life, sustain him/her in moments of hesitancy, uncertainty, and anxiety, bear witness, and guide the child's progress helping him/her to lead a Christian life in keeping with baptism and to fulfill faithfully the obligations inherent in that life.

The first question to ask as a Godparent or Sponsor is not only will the Church permit me to serve in this capacity, but am I ready to be one! In other words, each one of us must ask if our own integrity allows us to stand at the Altar and make a public profession that the faith we will speak in words is also the faith we practice.

The role of the Godparent does not demand that you be a canonized saint. We all have miles to go in Christian progress. All of us must place ourselves at the mercy of God. We know members of families, who have stopped attending Mass or who rarely receive the Sacraments, suddenly find themselves asked to be a Godparent or Sponsor. If you are in a similar situation, we invite you to let this moment be a real opportunity to grow in the Spirit and in your faith. You could choose to make the signing of the Sponsor Form a real grace of change, a moment of recommitment. You could resolve to sit down with a priest, deacon, member of our pastoral staff or a practicing Catholic family member or friend and chart a new path in your faith.

If you currently practice or are ready to make a renewed practice of your faith, it will be a joy to walk this step with you. Perhaps you think you are not ready to undertake this responsibility. If so, you may request of the family to be excused.

If we can be of any assistance in your discernment or in nurturing the grace that this occasion provides for you, please give us a call. Thank you for your consideration, thoughts and prayers in arriving at a response to this call to leadership and integrity.

Sincerely,

St Thomas Aquinas Clergy and Staff

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