ST. PIUS X PARISH – FAIRFIELD, CT

BAPTISM/CONFIRMATION GODPARENT/SPONSOR AFFIRMATION

I. SOME BASIC CHURCH NORMS CONCERNING GODPARENTS/SPONSORS

It is the very ancient custom of the Church that at the celebration of the sacrament of Baptism or Confirmation, a godparent/sponsor is present. The function of the godparent/sponsor is: **A)** together with the celebrant who baptizes or confirms, to represent the Church in receiving the person into the communion of the Catholic Church, and **B)** to support the person in living the Catholic Christian life.

In accord with **Canon 874 of the Code of Canon Law**, the Church can admit a person to the role of godparent/sponsor if **A)** he or she is more than sixteen (16) years of age; **B)** is a baptized Catholic who has been Confirmed and received Holy Communion, and who lives a life which befits the role to be undertaken, and **C)** is neither the father nor the mother of the person.

Given the functions and role a godparent/sponsor exercises, a non-Catholic Christian cannot be admitted as a godparent/sponsor. However, he or she can serve as a Christian witness (c 874 §2). A person baptized as a Catholic who is now sacramentally or canonically ineligible to serve as a godparent may not serve as a Christian witness. These include those who subsequently renounced the Catholic faith in favor of another church community or entity. Those unbaptized and those whose Baptism is not recognized by the Catholic Church may not serve in the role of godparent/sponsor or Christian witness, but are, of course, welcome to be present at the ceremony.

Note that the Catholic seeking to be admitted as a godparent/sponsor "lives a life which befits the role to be undertaken." This phraseology means that the candidate for godparent/sponsor **A)** sincerely believes and strives to put into practice the Word of God as taught by the Catholic Church; **B)** regularly participates in Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation; and **C)** if married, was married in accordance with the requirements of the Catholic Church.

II. AFFIRMATION OF THE PROSPECTIVE GODPARENT/SPONSOR

If therefore, you seek to be admitted as a godparent/sponsor and are convinced that you qualify in accordance with the conditions listed above, kindly make the following **solemn affirmation before God**:

I, (*print full name*) _____, a practicing Catholic seeking to be admitted as a godparent/sponsor, solemnly affirm that I fulfill the requirements of the Catholic Church for this role as presented above. I intend, with the grace of God, to continue to practice my Catholic faith, and I will, to the best of my ability, carry out the obligations of my role as godparent/sponsor.

(Please print)

_____ _____

Date of Ceremony ***Name of Baptism/Confirmation Candidate***

_____

Parish/Town

_____ _____

Signature of Godparent/Sponsor ***Date***

_____ _____

Godparent/Sponsor's e-mail address ***Phone number***

**Approved for use by the Diocese of Bridgeport*