

CHOOSING MY CHILD'S GODPARENT

In asking to have your child baptized, you are asking for the gift of faith for your child. Baptism is a sacrament of faith, and faith needs an atmosphere within which to grow and develop. As the Catechism teaches, "But faith needs the community of believers. It is only within the faith of the Church that each of the faithful can believe. The faith required for Baptism is not a perfect and mature faith, but a beginning that is called to develop."

Along with parents, *godparents* play an important role in the growth and development of the faith of your child. Again, the Catechism teaches, "For the grace of Baptism to unfold, the parents' help is important. So too is the role of the *godfather* and *godmother*, who must be firm believers, able and ready to help the newly baptized on the road of Christian life. Their task is a truly ecclesiastical office."

Given the importance of the office of godfather and godmother, the Church requires the following:

- a. Only one male and one female godparent may be chosen
- b. Must be at least sixteen years old
- c. Must be a baptized, confirmed, practicing Catholic
- d. Must lead a life in harmony with the faith and the office to be undertaken

If only one Catholic godparent is chosen, a baptized person who is an active member of another Christian denomination may serve as a Christian witness along with the Catholic godparent.

In designating who will serve as your child's godparent you are choosing an important witness of faith for your child. Each godparent or witness is asked to make a declaration of acceptance of this office and support for your child's faith life. Please have them fill out the appropriate form: Catholic godparent or Christian witness.