

6 Tips for GODPARENTS

There is no manual and no set of diagrams that show you how to be a godparent, but here is a list of quick tips. In the pages that follow, you will read accounts of how different parents and godparents have responded to the godparents' calling by addressing specific aspects of godparenting.

1

Coordinate and cooperate. After being invited and accepting, talk with the parents about what your role will be. Ask how you can best serve. What are they expecting? What strengths do you bring to the relationship? Talk about what godparenting means to each of you.

3

Pray. This sounds simple, but it is important: always have your godchild in your prayers and make sure that he or she knows. Teach your godchild your favorite prayer, and pray it together. Ask to be included in his or her prayers.

5

Love and nurture. Give compliments, praise, and encouragement. Be available to talk. Work with and through the parents, so the godchild knows he or she has all of you together on his or her side.

2

Keep in touch and be involved. Don't be a stranger. Take advantage of opportunities to meet in person—at events, family gatherings, Mass, milestones such as First Communion and Confirmation, and other parish activities. Call, text, post on social media; even send notes and gifts in the mail! As the child grows, be supportive of his or her youth-group activities in the parish.

4

Be an example. Use your godparenting role as an opportunity for your own growth. Think about how you can push yourself further spiritually in your work, hobbies, recreation, interests, and relationships so that your godchild knows that your relationship with him or her is important to you.

6

Guide your godchild to God. This is the whole purpose of godparenting. Include an indication of how you have found God in all things in your visits, your texts, your notes, and your shares. Share ideas as to how and where your godchild can do that too. Make sure your godchild knows that your relationship is founded on your shared communion with Christ.