

# Choosing Godparents

*Walk beside, Listen to, Learn with and Share the Faith*



The bond between the parent and the godparents should be very close. The godparents need to be ready to help the parents in the Christian formation of the child, and even greater than this, to be an example to the child of what a Christian is. What you need to look for in godparents are people who can share with you the responsibility of handing on the faith. You are searching for persons who know that being a Catholic involves prayer, justice toward the poor, kindness to friends and strangers – persons whose faith is alive and important.

Godparents have the responsibility to walk beside, listen to, cherish, pray with, share with and learn with your child. What this means is that the godparents you choose must be a friend, a mentor, a confidante and a role model to your child.

Baptism is communal. It draws the entire parish family into witnessing to their faith and nurturing the growth of the faith in the newly baptized. Because of this it makes most sense to have at least one of the godparents be a member of the parish. Since at baptism the godparents promise to help you in your duty as Christian parents, why ask someone who will never share faith and prayer with you? Of course many of us have family members who live in other parts of the country. Our family and our faith bring us together for many celebrations of faith over the years. Choosing a family member who lives their faith as a godparent is another way to celebrate family and faith together.

Think and pray about the choice you will make. Let it be a choice that will make a positive difference in the life of your child and your family.

## REQUIREMENTS FOR GODPARENTS

✝ Generally, there are two godparents for baptism, however Canon Law only requires one. A second person who is not Catholic, but is a baptized Christian may act as a *Christian Witness*.

✝ Godparents should be selected because of the good example they themselves witness. They should be people who live out their faith.

✝ Godparents must be at least 16 years of age and have received the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Catholic Church.

✝ If a godparent is married, he/she must be married in accordance with the laws of the Catholic Church.

✝ Godparents must be registered in a parish and obtain a *Sponsor Certificate* from his/her parish.