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Dear Prospective Godparent or Confirmation Sponsor,

Congratulations! We trust it is your witness to the Catholic Faith that was the major reason you have been selected for this role. You may – and should – feel honored to be asked. Before accepting however, you should prayerfully consider the responsibilities and ramifications.

The role you have been invited to accept is more than merely ceremonial. A fundamental question should be addressed: *“Can I allow myself to accept this role and responsibility?”* In other words, *“Will my own integrity allow me to stand at the altar and make a public profession that the faith expressed in words is also a faith in practice in my daily life?”*

The role of Godparent or Sponsor does not demand that one be a canonized saint! All of us must place ourselves within the mercy of God. We all have miles to go in our daily Christian journeys of faith, but if sincere commitment and genuine effort to live out that commitment are lacking, one does a serious diservice to the candidate by publicly accepting a role model’s position as a Godparent or Sponsor.

We know that family members or friends who have stopped attending Mass or who rarely receive the Sacraments do sometimes find themselves asked to serve as a Godparent or Sponsor. Should you be in such a position, we invite you to see and grasp this moment as a real opportunity for growth in the Spirit and in the faith. If you choose to sign the form, you have the unique opportunity to make this a time of change, a moment of recommitment. You might resolve to sit down with a Priest or with a family member or friend who is a practicing Catholic and chart a new path in your life of faith.

Perhaps, for whatever reason, you are not ready for this. If you are not committed to the full, renewed practice of your Faith, then by all means – and in all honesty – simply ask the relative or friend who has asked you to be a Godparent or Sponsor to hold you excused. Whatever you discern, do so by the Grace of God.

If I can be of any assistance in your discernment or in nurturing the grace that this occasion provides for you, please call upon me. It would be a joy and a privilege to walk this step with you. Thank you for your consideration, thoughts, and prayers in arriving at a response to this call to journey with someone toward full communion of life in the Catholic Church.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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Reverend J. Jerome Wild

Pastor