



ST. BERNARD'S

CATHOLIC CHURCH

3100 HEMPSTEAD TURNPIKE • LEVITTOWN, NEW YORK 11756 • 516-731-4220 • FAX 516-731-4355

Dear Friend in Christ:

A friend or family member has honored you by asking you to take on a truly awesome responsibility: to serve as a Christian Witness or “Godparent” for a child who is about to be baptized into Jesus Christ and his Church at St. Bernard’s Roman Catholic Church!

The role of Christian Witness is one that will require of you a serious commitment of time and effort, as you will be, after the parents and along with a Catholic Godparent, the primary model and teacher of Christian faith for this child!. As none of us can model and teach what we ourselves do not believe and live, we invite you at this time to consider carefully your own readiness to take on this role. It is my responsibility as Pastor to determine as far as possible that those who serve in the “ministry” of Godparent are truly ready to do so!

For this reason, I ask you to please read and give careful thought to the Christian Witness Testimony found on the back of this paper. We hope that after appropriate prayer and reflection you will find yourself able to honestly sign the Testimony! If you have perhaps not been actively living your Christian faith in recent years, we hope that this invitation to take on the role of Godparent will serve as an opportunity to renew your faith relationship with God in Jesus Christ, and your own faith community.

If you believe you are qualified and are ready to take on the responsibilities outlined in the Christian Witness Sponsor Testimony, please complete and sign the form, and return it to your Godchild’s parent/s, as she/he/they will not be able to schedule the Baptism without it. May God bless and guide you as you take on this new “ministry” of Godparent!

In the Lord,

Rev. John McCarthy
Pastor

ST. BERNARD CHURCH CHRISTIAN WITNESS TESTIMONY

The role of a Christian Witness in the Catholic Church is to, along with a Catholic Sponsor, actively support the newly-Baptized person by good example and instruction in the Christian life.

To be a Christian Witness, a person must be a Baptized Christian, at least sixteen years of age, and have already received Holy Communion and Confirmation if this is the practice of the person's church. In addition, he or she must be leading a life in harmony with the Christian faith. (This may include: striving to live according to the values of Jesus in daily life, committing to participating in worship with your faith community on a weekly basis, etc.)

I, _____, declare that I have been chosen to act as a Christian Witness for _____, who is to receive the Sacrament of Baptism at St. Bernard's Church on _____.

In assuming this responsibility, I testify that:

- **I am a Baptized Christian who is at least sixteen years of age.**
- **I have received Holy Communion and Confirmation according to the practice of my church (if applicable).**
- **I am living a life in harmony with the teachings of Jesus and the Christian faith.**

Understanding the role of sponsor in the Church, and aware of the obligations and responsibilities of this role, I attest that I am willing and able to accept the role of Christian Witness.

By my signature, I solemnly swear that I fulfill all of the requirements to be a Christian Witness as described above.

Date

Sponsor Signature

Please print:

Address: _____

Town/state: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Church you currently attend: _____

Church address/town/state: _____