**Divine Mercy Parish**

Diocese of Allentown

108 West Cherry St., Shenandoah, PA 17976

Phone: 570-462-1968

Dear Godparent/Confirmation Sponsor:

 Congratulations! We hope 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 to accept. Before accepting, however, you should prayerfully and carefully 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 a Godparent/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 journey of faith, but if sincere commitment and genuine effort to live out that commitment are lacking, one does a serious disservice by publicly accepting a role model’s position as a Sponsor/Godparent.

 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/Sponsor. Should you be in such a position, we invited you to see and to grasp this moment as a real opportunity for growth in the Spirit and in the Faith. If you choose to sign the form below this letter, you have the unique opportunity to make this a time of change, a moment or 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 - all in all – honesty – simply ask the relative or friend who has asked you to be a Sponsor to hold you excused. Whatever you discern, do so by the grace of God.

 If we can be of any assistance in your discernment or in nurturing the grace that this occasion provides for you, please call upon us. It would be a joy and privilege to walk this step with you. Thank you for your consideration, thoughts and prayers in arriving at a response to this call to integrity.

 Sincerely yours in Christ,

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**Godparent/Sponsor Certificate Form**

**Please read the following carefully, check boxes and have your parish priest certify.**

 The Catholic Church requires that all those who assume the responsibilities and obligations of godparent for the Sacrament of Baptism or of sponsor for the Sacrament of Confirmation practice their religion faithfully and are exemplary in their conduct as members of the Roman Catholic Church. Consequently, letters of approbation to serve as godparent or sponsor will be issued only to persons able to make the following affirmations and agreements:

I am a Roman Catholic, who is registered and participating member of Divine Mercy Catholic Church located in Shenandoah, Pennsylvania.

I have been asked to be a godparent for the Sacrament of Baptism or a sponsor for the Sacrament of Confirmation and I am not the father or the mother of the one to be baptized or confirmed. (Canon 874, Section 1, 1 and 5).

I have attained the required minimum age of sixteen years. (Canon 874, Section 1,2).

I have received the three Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist (Canon 874, Section 1,3).

I believe and hold true all the official teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.

Married: Yes No

\*If Married, \_ Yes No I have been validly married in accord with all Roman Catholic Church Laws, Norms and Principles (i.e., married by a Catholic priest or deacon, married by a minister with proper dispensation from the Catholic Church; had marriage validated by the Catholic Church) [ref. Cannon 874, Section 1,4]

I participate weekly in the Saturday evening or Sunday Mass and give witness to my Faith in Jesus Christ by receiving the Sacraments of Penance and Holy Eucharist on a regular basis. I keep the Holy Days of Obligation.

During Lent, I do penance, abstain from meat on Fridays and fast on the days appointed.

If I have children, I am rearing or have reared them in the Catholic Faith by preparing them for the reception of the Sacraments, by enrolling them in religious education, and by seeing to it that they attend.

I strive actively to live out my own baptismal commitment to Christ, to study my faith and to do my best to share the teachings of Christ with others, both by my words and actions, and do all in my power to give witness of the love of Jesus by my lifestyle.

I realize that I assume a great responsibility before God and the Church in becoming a godparent or a sponsor. I promise to give support and guide the person I am sponsoring by my prayers, and most especially, by my own Catholic example of my daily life.

Godparent/Sponsor Certificate for: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 (Name of Godchild/Candidate)

**I affirm that, by my signature, I am attesting to the truth of all these statements.**

Godparent’s/Sponsor’s Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Godparent’s/Sponsor’s Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 **I hereby testify that the person whose signature is above is a registered member of the parish and has affirmed that he/she fulfills all the requirements to serve in the ministry as a godparent for the Sacrament of Baptism or as a sponsor for the Sacrament of Confirmation.**

Attested by: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(Parish Seal)

 Pastor