FORM B

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH- GODPARENT CERTIFICATION FORM

[Must be on file at least two weeks prior to Baptism]

Dear Baptismal Sponsor:

When a parent chooses you as a Baptismal Sponsor (godparent) that means you are thought of as a very special Catholic. Being called to be a godparent is not merely a choice because of family ties or a reward of friendship. The call to be a sponsor bears the responsibility of giving spiritual witness to your godchild of how to live out the Catholic faith in everyday life. By being faithful to God's law, being active in the life of your parish, participating in Mass weekly, and living Gospel values, you offer tremendous personal support to the parents who commit themselves in Baptism in faithfully passing on the Catholic faith to their child.

The requirements to be a valid sponsor are found in Canon Law of the Catholic Church:

- Must be at least 16 years of age.
- Must be fully initiated, having received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist
- Must be a member of the Catholic Church, canonically free to carry out this office. *[This would indicate that Catholics living in an invalid marriage (not according to Church regulations) and those who are cohabiting (living together without marriage) are ineligible.]*
- Must know the fundamental truths of the faith, **be a practicing Catholic who attends Sunday Mass** and receives the sacraments regularly, and sees to the religious instruction of his/her family.
- Must not be the mother or father of the one to be baptized or confirmed. The sponsor, with the parents, present the child for the sacrament and helps him/her live a life befitting a baptized Catholic Christian.

Therefore, it is important that you prayerfully consider the serious responsibility, which you take on as a godparent. If you are unable to live up to these Catholic ideals, you may wish to decline this responsibility.

I, _____ of _____ Church
(Print godparent's name) (Name of Church parish)

accept the invitation to be godparent to _____ for the Sacrament of Baptism at St. Joseph's Church.

***With my signature, I testify that I meet ALL the above requirements for being a sponsor as stipulated in Canon Law. I understand that I am called to serve as a companion, guide, and role model to my godchild especially by my own example and witness.**

Signed:_____ Date_____

CERTIFICATION FROM GODPARENT'S HOME PARISH

This is to certify that _____

_____is in good standing in this parish and that he/she meets the requirements for being a godparent.

_____is registered in our parish as a practicing Catholic .

_____lives in the territorial boundaries of this parish, but is not a registered parishioner.

Parish:_____ Address:_____

Phone:_____ City, State, Zip:_____

Signature:_____ Title:_____ Date:_____

[affix parish seal]

Must be completed at godparent's Church Parish and returned to St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church; P. O. Box 368, Ponchatoula, LA 70454; Phone: 985-386-3749; 2 weeks before scheduled baptism.