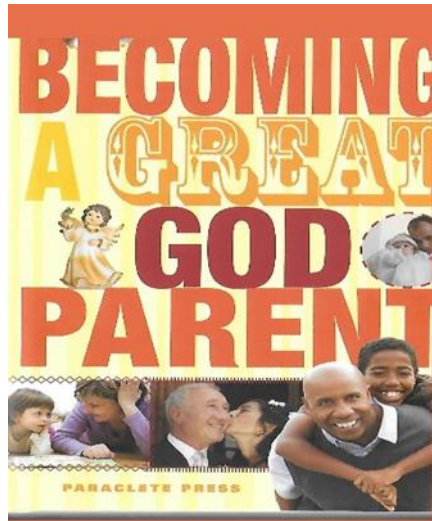


Adapted from:



- I. What Does a Great Godparent Do?
 - a. Present and prayerfully involved at the child's Baptism and then later at their Confirmation.
 - b. Present at other key moments in the child's life as they grow into adulthood – need to make an effort to see the child frequently.
 - c. There to help guide the spiritual formation and religious education of the child.
 - d. Prepared to step in and help the child and family if something should happen to the parents.
 - e. Takes on a role similar to a special aunt or uncle.
 - f. Is one of the most important spiritual influences in the life of their godchild.
 - g. Has secondary (to the parents) responsibility for the religious education and spiritual formation of their godchild after their Baptism.

- II. A (Very) Brief History of Christian Godparenting
 - a. Inherited from ancient Judaism.
 - b. Jewish boys are presented to their fathers at their *brit milah* by a *sandek*, a close adult friend of the family.
 - c. As infant Baptisms became more common around the 2nd century, godparents accompanied and witnessed to the family's commitment to the confession of faith.
 - d. Each godparent at a Baptism played the important role of verifying the sincerity of the child (or adult convert) along with the family in which that child was raised
 - e. Early theologians and bishops often referred to godparents as "spiritual fathers and mothers" to their godchildren, and even as "spiritual co-parents" because their role was so important.

- III. A Spiritual Companion
 - a. Teach by words and example.
 - b. Pray for your godchild's spiritual needs.
 - c. Stay in touch by sending a card every year on their godchild's Baptism anniversary.
 - d. Meaningful gift ideas:
 - i. Books or prayer cards on a favorite saint, or the child's patron saint
 - ii. Age appropriate Bible
 - iii. Rosary
 - iv. Engraved picture frame

- v. Painting or cross to hang in child's room
 - vi. Framed print detailing the meaning of the child's name
 - vii. Special jewelry with religious significance such as a cross or angel
 - viii. "Keepsake box" for special mementos as the child grows up
 - ix. Framed photo of you with your godchild
- e. If possible, sit with your godchild at Mass.
 - f. Offer to take your godchild to Mass when the parents are unable to.
 - g. Be a holy example.
 - h. Be willing to share your faith through daily life, actions, and decisions.
 - i. Ways to support your Godchild:
 - i. Celebrate the anniversary of their Baptism with a visit, call, or a card
 - ii. Be available to your godchild to listen and share in the struggles and joys of the Christian life
 - iii. Encourage a growing relationship with Jesus, welcoming honest conversation and relationship
 - iv. Be involved as your godchild receives the other sacraments
 - v. Support your godchild's parents as they guide their child in the Catholic faith
 - vi. Support your godchild's unique interests and gifts as they discover God's call in their life
 - vii. Become a trusted friend and mentor as they grow older and navigate their way through life

*Loving Lord God,
I pray today that you will guide,
inspire,
and support me in my role as
godparent
to N.*

*Shine your divine presence in my life
in new ways. Enlighten me with your
wisdom, and show me how to best
reflect your love.*