



Office of the Bishop

Diocese of Hamilton in Bermuda

8th June 2022

DECREE

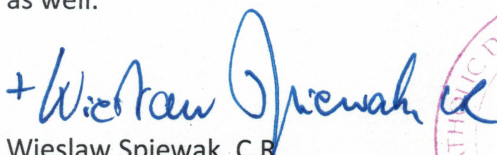
"Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit and the door which gives access to the other sacraments". I have decided to formulate some standards concerning the preparation and administration of this Sacrament in the Diocese of Hamilton in Bermuda.

There is no fee for the Sacrament of Baptism in our Diocese. Donations can be made by the family but nobody has the right to request any financial remuneration for administering Baptism. Such kind of action is considered an offense under our Diocesan Regulations.

Canon Law gives the title of godparent or sponsor only to Catholics. One godparent, male or female, is sufficient per child however, there may be two. When this is the case, there must be one of each gender; male and female. Godparents must also be Catholics who have been baptised and confirmed, and have received the blessed Eucharist in a Catholic Church. Godparents must also submit an Affirmation Form. If they are parishioners of our Diocese, our Parish churches will provide them with this form. If they belong to another Diocese, they should provide an Affirmation Form that is in use in their Diocese of belonging.

Canon Law states that a baptised person who belongs to a Non-Catholic denomination may be allowed only when a Catholic godparent is present and the Non-Catholic will hold the title of a witness to the Baptism.

In a situation when the godparent cannot be present at the rite of Baptism, he/she can appoint a proxy who will act on their behalf. The requirements requested of the godparents are not mandatory for the proxy but it is recommended that he/she be possibly fulfilling them as well.


Wieslaw Spiewak, C.R.
Bishop of Hamilton in Bermuda

