



THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF
SAINT MONICA

Pastor's Explanation of the Purpose of Letters of Good Standing

I often receive requests to sign a statement that a certain individual is a practicing Catholic and eligible to serve as a godparent, Confirmation sponsor, or RCIA sponsor. This is sometimes referred to as a **LETTER OF GOOD STANDING**. What I sometimes notice is that the person who requests my signature:

- a. Has not registered in the parish,
- b. Has no record of any involvement in the parish,
- c. Has no record of attending Mass,
- d. Has moved to another area or has just arrived from another area and has no record of being involved either here or there.

This makes it very difficult for me to sign my name to something that I am not sure is true. Therefore, please take note of the following guidelines for requests that you may make in this regard.

IF YOU WANT TO BE CONSIDERED A PARISHIONER of our parish and would like validation of this from the parish office, we need you to please:

1. Register as a parishioner.
2. Become involved in some parish activity or ministry, if you are not already involved.
3. Fulfill your obligation to participate at Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation and either use your envelope or a check that allows us to track your attendance (this is not to see how much you give, but that you attend).
4. If you are an adult child of parents in the parish, register yourself here or wherever you attend Mass.
5. If you come from another parish and would like us to offer a **Letter of Good Standing** for you, please bring some statement from your previous parish that you are a practicing parishioner there.
6. Finally, if you move, notify us that you have moved and register in the parish of the new location.

THE PURPOSE OF a **LETTER OF GOOD STANDING** is to show that we value the example and commitment of godparents and sponsors, and it is hypocritical to stand up for someone when you either do not believe or practice what you profess. The letter assures the parish seeking it that the person recommended to it is serious about his or her Catholic faith and will share that faith with the one to be baptized or confirmed.

Finally, please note our parish registrations are to be used only by our parish and our diocese. In no way do we share the information you gave us with the government or any outside organization.

In Christ, Our Redeemer

Rev. John F. Durkin, Jr., Pastor