

Who Can Be A Christian Witness For Baptism?

Pursuant to Canon Law, the following is stated regarding who can be considered a Christian Witness for a baptism:

Can. 874 §2 states *A baptized person who belongs to a non-Catholic ecclesial community may not be admitted except as a witness to baptism and together with a Catholic sponsor.*

The intent of this canon is to allow someone who is baptized in another Trinitarian Protestant Faith, (i.e. Baptist, Episcopal, etc.) to participate in the baptismal ceremony in conjunction with a qualified Catholic sponsor. It is not intended to allow for the following situations: a baptized Catholic who is not living out his or her Catholic faith; a baptized Catholic under the age of 16 years; or a baptized Catholic who has not yet received the sacrament of Confirmation.

Therefore, the policy at St. Mary Magdalen Church for a Christian Witness at a baptism is as follows:

A Christian witness is defined as someone who is baptized in another Trinitarian Protestant Faith, (i.e. Baptist, Episcopal, etc.). A Christian witness is allowed only in conjunction with a qualified Catholic sponsor and must be of the opposite sex of the qualified Catholic sponsor.