

Profession of Faith

Policy No. 612

Policy Statement:

Adults or children who have been baptized in another church or ecclesial community are to make a Profession of Faith and receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist immediately following.

Children under catechetical age are received in the Catholic Church by virtue of the Profession of Faith of their parents providing the parents have made a formal request. The children participate in the ceremony with their parents so that the intent is clear.

At 14 years of age, a child may request to make a Profession of Faith without the consent of the parents.

Intent of Policy

To welcome all validly baptized persons into communion with the Catholic Church and prepare them to receive the Sacraments of the Church.

Definition:

Catechetical age is 7 years and older.

Profession of Faith is a declaration of the Creed and the following statement: “I believe and profess all that the holy Catholic Church believes and teaches, and proclaims to be revealed by God.” (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, CCCB, 1987)

Profession of Faith is made by one who is validly baptized in another Christian church or ecclesial community.

Procedure:

- a) Complete the RCIA (Adults) or RCIA adapted for children Forms – Appendix 612A or Appendix 612B.
- b) Complete the Form for each person, whether adult making a Profession of Faith or child being received by virtue of the Profession of Faith of the parents.
- c) Obtain a copy of the original Baptism certificate of the person.
- d) Determine whether the person, adult or child, has been validly baptized. (Validity of Baptism in the Catholic Church – Appendix 612C)
- e) If the Baptism is invalid or of uncertain validity, Baptism or Conditional Baptism may need to be conferred. Apply the appropriate Policy for the situation.
- f) Select Sponsor(s).

Sacraments of Initiation

- g) Candidates in the RCIA and RCIA adapted for children usually make the Profession of Faith at the Easter Vigil, followed by the celebration of the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Eucharist.
- h) Record the Profession of Faith in the Baptism Register. (Policy No. 811, Profession of Faith Entries).
- i) Issue of Profession of Faith Certificate (Profession of Faith Certificate Template – Appendix 826A or 826B).
- j) Profession of Faith made by one who is baptized in an Orthodox church are most often ascribed to the corresponding Eastern Church *sui iuris* within the Catholic Church.

Also refer to Policy:

- No. 605 Selection of Sponsor
- No. 613 Conditional Baptism
- No. 615 Permanent File
- No. 811 Baptism and Profession of Faith Entries
- No. 826 Profession of Faith Certificate

Also refer to Appendix:

- Appendix 605A Sponsor Testimonial of Suitability Template
- Appendix 612A Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) Form
- Appendix 612B RCIA adapted for Children Form
- Appendix 612C Validity of Baptism in the Catholic Church
- Appendix 826A Profession of Faith Certificate (Adult) Template
- Appendix 826B Profession of Faith Certificate (Child) Template