

## **Conditional Baptism**

**Policy No. 613**

***Policy Statement:*** If after extensive enquiry, there remains a serious, positive, and probable doubt as to whether a person is validly baptized, Conditional Baptism is to be conferred (c. 869 §1-3).

***Intent of Policy*** To ensure a person is validly baptized in order to receive subsequent sacraments in the Catholic Church.

***Procedure:*** Determine the validity of the Baptism of a person:

- Obtain a copy of the Baptism Certificate.
- Consult the Validity of Baptism in the Catholic Church – Appendix 612C.
- Investigate the matter and the form (words) used in the celebration of Baptism, taking into consideration the intention of the minister of Baptism and, if applicable, the intention of the adult person receiving Baptism.
- Contact the Office of Canonical Services.

If the validity of Baptism remains doubtful:

- Explain the reason for Conditional Baptism to the person before the conferring the sacrament.
- Follow the same policy and procedure as with Baptism of a child or adult.
- Provide sacramental preparation as per the discretion of the pastor in each individual case.
- The minister of Baptism uses the form “If you are able, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” when conferring the sacrament.
- Record in the Baptism Register (Policy No. 811)
- Issue a Baptism Certificate with no indication that the Baptism was Conditional.

***Also refer to Policy:***

No. 605 Selection of Sponsor  
No. 615 Permanent File  
No. 811 Baptism and Profession of Faith Entries

***Also refer to Appendix:***

Appendix 605A Sponsor Testimonial of Suitability Template  
Appendix 612C Validity of Baptism in the Catholic Church