

Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches cc 27-38 — Appendix 616A

TITLE II.

CHURCHES *SUI IURIS* AND RITES

Canon 27 - A group of Christian faithful united by a hierarchy according to the norm of law which the supreme authority of the Church expressly or tacitly recognizes as *sui iuris* is called in this Code a Church *sui iuris*.

Canon 28 - §1. A rite is the liturgical, theological, spiritual and disciplinary patrimony, culture and circumstances of history of a distinct people, by which its own manner of living the faith is manifested in each Church *sui iuris*.

§2. The rites treated in this code, unless otherwise stated, are those which arise from the Alexandrian, Antiochene, Armenian, Chaldean and Constantinopolitan traditions.

Chapter I.

Enrollment to a Church *Sui Iuris*

Canon 29 - §1. By virtue of baptism, a child who has not yet completed his fourteenth year of age is enrolled in the Church *sui iuris* of the Catholic father; or the Church *sui iuris* of the mother if only the mother is Catholic or if both parents by agreement freely request it, with due regard for particular law established by the Apostolic See.

§2. If the child who has not yet completed his fourteenth year is:

1° born of an unwed mother, he is enrolled in the Church *sui iuris* to which the mother belongs;

2° born of unknown parents, he is to be enrolled in the Church *sui iuris* of those in whose care he has been legitimately committed are enrolled; if it is a case of an adoptive father and mother, §1 should be applied;

3° born of non-baptized parents, the child is to be a member of the Church *sui iuris* of the one who is responsible for his education in the Catholic faith.

Canon 30 - Anyone to be baptized who has completed the fourteenth year of age can freely select any Church *sui iuris* in which he or she then is enrolled by virtue of baptism received in that same Church, with due regard for particular law established by the Apostolic See.

Canon 31 - No one can presume in any way to induce the Christian faithful to transfer to another Church *sui iuris*.

Canon 32 - §1. No one can validly transfer to another Church *sui iuris* without the consent of the Apostolic See.

§2. In the case of Christian faithful of an eparchy of a certain Church *sui iuris* who petition to transfer to another Church *sui iuris* which has its own eparchy in the same territory, this consent of the Apostolic See is presumed, provided that the eparchial bishops of both eparchies consent to the transfer in writing.

Canon 33 - A wife is at liberty to transfer to the Church of the husband at the celebration of or during the marriage; when the marriage has ended, she can freely return to the original Church *sui iuris*.

Canon 34 - If the parents, or the Catholic spouse in the case of a mixed marriage, transfer to another Church *sui iuris*, children under fourteen years old by the law itself are enrolled in the same Church; if in a marriage of Catholics only one parent transfers to another Church *sui iuris*, the children transfer only if both parents consent. Upon completion of the fourteenth year of age, the children can return to the original Church *sui iuris*.

Canon 35 - Baptized non-Catholics coming into full communion with the Catholic Church should retain and practice their own rite everywhere in the world and should observe it as much as humanly possible. Thus, they are to be enrolled in the Church *sui iuris* of the same rite with due regard for the right of approaching the Apostolic See in special cases of persons, communities or regions.

Canon 36 - The transfer to another Church *sui iuris* takes effect at the moment a declaration is made before the local hierarch or the proper pastor of the same Church or a priest delegated by either of them and two witnesses, unless the rescript of the Apostolic See provides otherwise.

Canon 37 - Every enrollment in a certain Church *sui iuris* or transfer to another Church *sui iuris* should be recorded in the baptismal register of the parish where the baptism was celebrated, even, as the case may be, in a Latin parish; if this cannot be done, it is to be kept by the proper pastor in another document in the archive of the parish of the Church *sui iuris* of enrollment.

Canon 38 - Christian faithful of Eastern Churches even if committed to the care of a hierarch or pastor of another Church *sui iuris*, nevertheless remain enrolled in their own Church.