

## **Membership in a Church *sui iuris* by Baptism**

### **Children Under 14**

### **Policy No. 616**

***Policy Statement:*** Children who have not yet reached fourteen years of age are baptized and ascribed into the Church *sui iuris* of their parents (CIC c.111§1; CCEO c. 29).

***Intent of Policy*** Baptism is the beginning of one's membership in a Church *sui iuris*. It is not the liturgical rite of Baptism that determines membership, but the Church to which the parents, or those who take their place, belong.

- Procedure:***
- a) If both parents are from the same Church *sui iuris*, the child must be baptized and ascribed to that Church.
  - b) If only one of the parents is Catholic, the child is baptized in and ascribed to the Church *sui iuris* of that parent.
  - c) If the father is from the Latin Church and the mother is from an Eastern Catholic Church, the child may be baptized in and ascribed to either Church.
  - d) If the father is from an Eastern Catholic Church and the mother is from the Latin Church, the child is to be baptized in and ascribed to the Eastern Church, unless both parents agree to have the child baptized in the Latin Church.
  - e) If neither parent is baptized, or if neither parent is baptized Catholic, the Church *sui iuris* of the person responsible for the child's Catholic upbringing determines the Church of ascription.
  - f) A child born to an unwed mother is ascribed to the mother's Church *sui iuris*.
  - g) Children whose parents are unknown are ascribed to the Church *sui iuris* of their legal guardian. If there are two legal guardians of different Churches *sui iuris*, the Church of one of them is chosen.
  - h) If legally adopted, the child is baptized and ascribed on the same basis as that determined for birth parents.