

Membership in a Church *sui iuris* by Transfer

Transfer through Marriage

Policy No. 620

Policy Statement:

In the marriage of a Latin Catholic male and an Eastern Catholic female, either spouse may freely transfer to the Church of the other at the time of, or any time during, the marriage.

In the marriage of an Eastern Catholic male and a Latin Catholic female, the Eastern Code allows only for the transfer of the wife to the Church *sui iuris* of her husband (CCEO c.33).

In a marriage where one spouse has transferred, when the marriage ends due to death, declaration of nullity, dissolution, or permanent separation, the spouse who transferred may freely return to his or her original Church *sui iuris*.

Intent of Policy

Many Eastern Catholics live among a majority of Catholics from the Latin Church and frequent inter-ecclesial marriages may lead to a loss of members of the Eastern Churches to the Latin Church. The law attempts to protect the Eastern Catholic communities against absorption by the Latin majority.

Procedure:

- a) Prior to the marriage ceremony the spouse who wishes to transfer must sign a declaration of transfer witnessed by the receiving pastor and two witnesses. The transfer then becomes effective with the exchange of marriage vows.
- b) During the marriage a spouse wanting to transfer must sign a declaration of transfer witnessed by the receiving pastor and two witnesses.
- c) In each case, (a) or (b), the transfer from one Church *sui iuris* to another must be recorded in the Baptism Register of the parish where the Baptism was celebrated.
- d) When a spouse returns to his or her original Church of Baptism, this new transfer should also be declared in the same manner as (a) or (b) and notification sent to the parish of Baptism.

Also refer to policy:

No. 619 Membership in a Church *sui iuris* by Transfer – Transfer Petition & Permission

Also refer to Appendix:

616A Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches cc27-38
619A Petition to Transfer to Another Church *sui iuris*