

## **Membership in a Church *sui iuris* by Reception into Full Communion**

### **Reception of Persons Baptized in Eastern Churches**

**Policy No. 622**

***Policy Statement:***

Baptized non-Catholics of an Eastern rite (Orthodox Christians) coming into full communion with the Catholic Church are to retain their own rite and be ascribed to the Church *sui iuris* of that same rite.

***Procedure:***

- a) Baptized non-Catholics of an Eastern rite who request full communion with the Catholic Church are to be referred to the corresponding Eastern Catholic Church before beginning any catechesis in a Latin parish.
- b) A Latin pastor may receive a baptized Eastern non-Catholic into full communion if the proper Eastern Catholic Church *sui iuris* is not accessible. For example, a Greek Orthodox becomes a member of the Greek Catholic Church; a Syrian Orthodox becomes a member of the Syrian Catholic Church, etc. In registering the reception, it must be noted that the person is a member of the comparable Eastern Church *sui iuris*.
- c) The basic requirement for the reception of a baptized non-Catholic of an Eastern rite is a free decision to be received and a profession of the Catholic faith (i.e. proclamation of the Creed) after appropriate catechesis and spiritual formation. No other obligation is to be imposed on them.

***Exception:***

Exceptions to this policy constitute a transfer requiring permission.

***Also refer to Policy:***

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

No. 620 Membership in a Church *sui iuris* by Transfer – Transfer through Marriage

***Also refer to Appendix:***

616A Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches cc27-38

619A Petition to Transfer to Another Church *sui iuris*