Validity of Baptism in the Catholic Church — Appendix 612C

Baptism – Valid (unless there exists a specific proof to the contrary)

African Methodist Episcopal
Amish
Anglican/Church of England/Episcopalian
Anglican Broad Church
Assembly of God
Assyrian Church of the East
Baptist (13 years of age and up)
Christian Reformed Church
Church of the Brethren
Church of Christ
Church of God
Church of the Nazarene
Congregational Church
Disciples of Christ / Disciples and Christians
Eastern/Oriental (monophysite)
Evangelical Churches
Evangelical Untied Brethren
Foursquare Gospel Church
Liberal Catholic Church
Lutheran
Methodist (Free)
National Churches:
- Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association
- Philippine National Church
- Polish National Church (member of the Utrecht)

Old Catholic
Old Catholic Church of the Union of Utrecht
Old Roman Catholic
Orthodox Churches, Easter / Oriental (monophysite)
Iglesia Filipina Independiente (IFI or Philippine Independent Church aka Aglipayan Church)
Presbyterian Church
Presbyterian Church in Canada
Reformed Church
Society of St. Pius X
Swedish Covenant Church
United Church of Canada
United Church of Christ
United Methodist Church of the Philippines
United Reformed
Uniting Church in Australia
Waldensian
Zion

No Baptism

First Church of Christ, Scientist (Mary Baker Eddy)
Masons/Free Masons
Salvation Army
Quakers Society of Friends

Baptism – Not Valid

Amana Church Society
Apostolic Church
American Ethical Union
Apostolic Church
Apostolic Faith Mission
Bohemian Free Thinkers
Children of God
Christadelphians
Christian Community (Rudolph Steiner)
Christians of the Universal Brotherhood (Doukhobors)
Church of Daniels Band
Church of Divine Science
Church of Illumination
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormon)
Church of the Lord Jesus (Winona, ON)
Church of the New Jerusalem / Swedenborgian Church
Church of Revelation
Church of Scientology / Christian Scientists
Erieside Church
General Assembly of Spiritualists
Hephzibah Faith Missionary Association
House of David Church
Iglesia ni Kristo (Philippines)
Independent Church of Filipinio Christians
Jehovah's Witness (Watchtower Society)
National David Spiritual Temple of Christ Church Union
National Spiritualist Association
New Jerusalem Church
People's Church of Chicago
Reunification Church (Moonies)
Shakers
Spiritualist Church
The New Church
Unitarians / Unitarian Universalists
United Society of Believers
Universal Emancipation Church

Baptism – Uncertain Validity

Adventists (Seventh-Day)
Apostolic Christian Church (Nazarene)
Christian and Missionary Alliance
Hutterites
Mennonites
Metropolitan Community Church
Moravian
Pentecostal Churches
Philippines Independent Church/Aglipayan (valid after 1961)
Worldwide Church of God (invalid before mid-1990s)
Plymouth Brethren

Requirements for Baptismal Validity

1. **The matter and the form:**
   - Application of true water – whether by pouring or immersion
   - Use of the Trinitarian formula, pronounced by the same minister who simultaneously administers the water: *"In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."*

2. **The intention of the minister** to do what the Church does (this does not necessarily mean holding the Catholic doctrine of Baptism).

3. **The intent/consent** of the person receiving Baptism (age of reason), or of the parents asking for Baptism for their child.

Factors that would *invalidate* a Baptism include:

- The use of a substance other than water
- The use of sprinkling, when the water does not clearly touch the skin of the person being baptized
- The use of a formula which changes or omits the names of the Persons of the Trinity, such as "I baptize you in the name of the Creator, the Redeemer, and the Sanctifier"
- Having one person pour the water while another person pronounces the words of the formula
- Baptism in a community whose beliefs are so far removed from Trinitarian Faith (e.g. Mormonism) that the minister does not truly intend Christian baptism
- A lack of consent to be baptized on the part of someone who has reached the age of reason.

* In cases of doubt, the pastor or his delegate is to inquire into the individual circumstances of the Baptism to verify its validity. This could be done by querying the baptized person (if baptized as an adult), the parents, the baptizing minister, or a witness.

If after an extensive inquiry, there remains a serious, positive, and probable doubt that the Baptism of a person is valid, **contact the Office of Canonical Services** *before* proceeding with Conditional Baptism.

References

1. *Canonical and Pastoral Guide for Parishes*, 3rd edition, 2006, Wilson & Lafleur, Montreal, PQ, 3.1.1 – 3.1.3.
2. Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, Letter, 05 June 2001.
3. Commission on Ecumenical & Interreligious Affairs Forum in Clergy Report April/May 1996, Archdiocese of New York.
4. Archdiocese of Vancouver Guidelines, 31 May 2001
5. Introductory Training for Advocates, Archdiocese of Seattle, Office of Tribunal, 2007.
6. Canonical Handbook for Parish Secretaries, Office of Canonical Services, Diocese of London, November 2011.
7. Guidelines for Recognition of Baptisms, CCCB Episcopal Commissions for Doctrine, October 2015.