

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Adults or children of catechetical age who have been baptized in another Church or ecclesial community are to make a Profession of Faith and receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion.

Children under catechetical age are received into the Catholic Church by virtue of the Profession of Faith of their parents. The children participate in the ceremony with their parents so that the intent of the parents is clear.

At 14 years of age, a child may request to make a Profession of Faith without the consent of the parents.

DEFINITIONS:

Catechetical age is 7 years or older.

Profession of Faith is a declaration of the Creed and the following statement: “I believe and profess all that the holy Catholic Church believes and teaches, and proclaims to be revealed by God.” (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, CCCB, 1987)

Profession of Faith is made by one who is validly baptized in another Church or ecclesial community.

PROCEDURE

- a) Complete the RCIA (Adults) or RCIA adapted for children Forms – 615A1 and 615A2 or 615B1 and 615B2.
- b) Complete the Form for each person, whether an adult making a Profession of Faith or a child being received by virtue of the Profession of Faith of the parents.
- c) Obtain a copy of the original Baptism certificate of the person.
- d) Determine whether the person, adult or child, has been validly baptized. (Validity of Baptism– Commentary 612).
- e) Select Sponsor(s).
- f) Candidates in the RCIA and RCIA adapted for children usually make the Profession of Faith at the Easter Vigil, followed by the celebration of the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion.
- g) Record the Profession of Faith in the Baptism Register and/or Parish Friendly.
- h) File a copy of the Profession of Faith in the Permanent File.
- i) Issue a Profession of Faith Certificate to the child or family.
- j) One who is baptized in an Orthodox Church and makes Profession of Faith is usually ascribed to the corresponding Eastern Church *sui iuris* within the Catholic Church.

Also refer to:

- No. 606 Commentary: Selection of Sponsor
- No. 609 Commentary: Conditional Baptism
- No. 612 Commentary: Validity of Baptism
- No. 615A2 Form: Adult who has been Baptized
- No. 615B2 Form: Child who has been Baptized

