

APPENDIX A

Baptismal Status of Non-Catholic Churches

Those baptized in a non-Catholic ecclesial community are NOT to be baptized conditionally unless there is a serious reason for doubting the validity of the baptism after examining the matter and form of the words used in the baptism as well as the intention of the adult being baptized and the baptizing minister (Canon 869).

The following is not an exhaustive list of all religious groups that do not have a valid baptism, even though some claim to be Christian and/or to have a valid baptism. When ascertaining the (in)validity of a baptism it is often necessary to ask the person or the person's parents (or other relative) what happened during the ceremony regarding matter and form. In lieu of a baptism certificate (which many churches do not provide), the sworn testimony of the person (if baptized as adult) suffices to establish a valid baptism. Or if the person was not an adult when baptized, the testimony of one witness is sufficient. (cf. Canon 876)

All non-Christian religious groups and communities do not have valid baptism.

AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL: VALID

Baptism with water by sprinkling, pouring, or dunking. Trinitarian formula is used. There is an open door ceremony which is not baptism.

AGLIPAYAN CHURCHES: See FILIPINO CHURCHES

AMANA CHURCH SOCIETY: INVALID

AMERICAN ETHICAL UNION: INVALID

AMISH: See **MENNONITES**

ANGLICAN: **VALID**

APOSTOLIC CHURCH

(APOSTOLIC OVERCOMING HOLY CHURCH OF GOD):
INVALID

The minister baptizes according to the second chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, and not St. Matthew. The form used is, “We baptize you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remissions of sins, and you shall receive a gift of the Holy Ghost.” No Trinitarian formula is used (ACTS 2:38).

APOSTOLIC FAITH MISSION: **INVALID**

ASSEMBLY OF GOD: **VALID**

A dedication ceremony is possible. Infants are not customarily baptized. Baptism with water takes place when a person is mature enough to understand its implications.

BAPTISTS: **VALID**

No infant baptism. There is a ceremony of dedication. Valid baptism takes place at the approximate age of thirteen.

BOHEMIAN FREE THINKERS: **INVALID**

A name-giving ceremony is held, which is not baptism. There is no Trinitarian belief. No baptism of any kind is practiced.

CHILDREN OF GOD (“THE FAMILY”): **INVALID**

CHRISTADELPHIANS: **INVALID**

Belief is in spiritual rebirth by immersion. Baptism appears invalid since there is no belief in a Trinity, but in one God. Jesus, who was the son of God, is not considered God the Son. There is no Trinitarian formula, since there is no belief in the Trinity.

CHRISTIAN AND MISSIONARY ALLIANCE: **INVALID**

No belief in infant baptism, but only those who give evidence of repentance and new birth. “Baptism” is seldom conferred by immersion before the age of twelve. It is given upon the personal confession of Christ as the Savior of this person. The formula is not given, but a Trinitarian form not used.

**CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY
(DISCIPLES OF RUDOLPH STEINER): INVALID**

CHRISTIANS OF THE UNIVERSALIST BROTHERHOOD: INVALID

**CHURCH OF BRETHREN
(Formerly called Dunkers): VALID**

Baptism is made by true immersion. The formula of St. Matthew is used.

**CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST
(CHRISTIAN SCIENTISTS): INVALID**

The mother church of all Christian Science Churches states, “Baptism is an individual spiritual experience. It is not a religious rite or ceremony performed by an ordained minister or priest.” The textbook states that it is a purification by spirit. A letter from the board of directors states there is no baptismal ritual in the Christian Science movement.

CHURCH OF DANIEL’S BAND: INVALID

CHURCH OF DIVINE SCIENCE: USUALLY INVALID

Apparently invalid baptism, but one needs to check the matter and form. The ceremony is a christening ceremony, but not one of baptism. There is no change brought about in the person who is blessed. The church does not believe in original sin, so a child is merely blessed when received into the church.

CHURCH OF ILLUMINATION: INVALID

**CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS
CHURCH (MORMON): INVALID**

Previously considered doubtful, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith declared this baptism invalid in a response dated June 5, 2001 (AAS, 93).

CHURCH OF GOD: VALID

There is a public baby dedication with no sacramental significance. Baptism is conferred later – when the individual asks for it – by immersion and with the Trinitarian formula.

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE: VALID

Infants are baptized or dedicated according to the wish of the parents. The form for baptism is Trinitarian. They also have a dedication ceremony which is not baptism.

CHURCH OF RELIGIOUS SCIENCE: INVALID

Same as Church of Divine Science. There is a “dedication” service to a way of life.

CHURCH OF REVELATION: INVALID

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH: VALID

DISCIPLES AND CHRISTIANS: VALID

There is a dedication service, but no infant baptism. Trinitarian formula used in baptism by immersion at an older age. These churches are sometimes known as the Disciples of Christ.

EASTERN non-CATHOLIC or ORTHODOX: VALID

EPISCOPALIAN: VALID

ERIESIDE CHURCH: INVALID

EVANGELICAL CHURCHES: VALID

EVANGELICAL UNITED BRETHREN: VALID

Members are not received into this church unless they have been baptized. Assurance of baptism is required before membership is extended. There is also a dedication ceremony. Baptism by water seems valid and is generally done by immersion, pouring, or sprinkling. The Trinitarian form is used.

FILIPINO CHURCHES:

The following Churches in the Philippines administer a **VALID** baptism:

- Iglesia Evangelica Metodista en las Islas Filipinas (IEMELIF)
- Convention of Philippine Baptist Churches (CPBC)
- Lutheran Church in the Philippines (LCP)
- Philippine Episcopal Church (PEC)
- Presbyterian Church
- Seventh-Day Adventist Church
- United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP)
- United Methodist Church in the Philippines (UMCP)

As for other Churches or religious groups, each case is to be examined individually. The problem of baptism administered by the various Aglipayan groups (Iglesia Filipina Independiente or Philippine Independent Church, Iglesia ni Kristo, Independent Church of Filipino Christians) is particularly difficult. The official Rite of Baptism of the Philippine Independent Church is in itself valid. However, the practical implementation (matter and form) of its official baptismal liturgy is not universally certain. Hence, the validity of the baptism administered by all Aglipayan groups, including the Philippine Independent Church, is still to be examined individually. (Source: Canon law Digest of the Philippine Catholic Church: A Test and Commentary, F. Testera, O.P. Manila: 1995, 12/5/2002.)

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF SPIRITUALISTS: INVALID

**HEPHZIBAH FAITH MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION:
INVALID**

HOUSE OF DAVID CHURCH: INVALID

IGLESIA NI KRISTO: See FILIPINO CHURCHES

**INDEPENDENT CHURCH OF FILIPINO CHRISTIANS:
See FILIPINO CHURCHES**

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES: INVALID

It appears that the Jehovah Witnesses are fundamentally Unitarians. The Divinity of Christ is explicitly denied, as is the existence of the Holy Spirit as a person. In the ceremony of baptism, there is a discourse which is really a symbol of dedication rather than baptism. The person enters the water, but his name is not called out. No words or formula are pronounced while the person is submerged or immersed in the water. Even if the matter and form are valid, the intention of the minister is to baptize the person into the Jehovah's Witness sect, thereby not intending that the person be baptized in the name of the triune God. This is evident since the divinity of Christ and the personality of the Holy Spirit are denied. These latter refer simply to a power exerted by Jehovah, who alone is God.

LIBERAL CATHOLIC CHURCH: VALID

LUTHERAN CHURCH: VALID

MASONS (FREEMASONRY): INVALID

MENNONITES: USUALLY INVALID

Each case must be examined on an individual basis. No infant baptism.

METHODIST CHURCH: VALID

Separate from baptism there is also a cradle roll, which is a listing of the names of infants too young to attend Sunday School. This record is kept separate from the Baptismal Record. In many instances names appear on both rolls. If it appears on one, it is not an indication that it would or should appear on the other. Since the church baptizes infants, however, if one is listed on the cradle roll, at least one pastor has stated it would seem to indicate that there was also baptism.

METROPOLITAN CHURCH ASSOCIATION: INVALID

MOONIES: See REUNIFICATION CHURCH

MORAVIANS: USUALLY INVALID

Each case must be examined on an individual basis.

MORMON: See CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS.

NATIONAL DAVID SPIRITUAL TEMPLE OF CHRIST CHURCH UNION: INVALID

NATIONAL SPIRITUALIST ASSOCIATION: INVALID

NEW JERUSALEM CHURCH (SWENDENBORG OR “NEW AGE” CHURCH): INVALID

Decision by Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith on November 20, 1992 [AAS, 85 (1993)]

OLD CATHOLIC OR OLD ROMAN CATHOLIC: VALID

ORTHODOX: VALID

PENTECOSTAL CHURCHES: USUALLY INVALID

Each case must be examined on an individual basis. Responses regarding the validity of this baptism were given by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith on February 7, 1964, and January 12, 1967. The issue of an invalid baptism is due to the use of Unitarian formula. This is found in the official book of the Pentecostal Assembly. However, baptism is considered necessary for the salvation and is done by immersion, and depending on the assembly the Trinitarian formula may have been used, in which case one must ask the person who was baptized which formula was used.

PEOPLES CHURCH OF CHICAGO (Dr. Preston Bradley): INVALID

Doctor Bradley himself wrote several letters stating that the doctrine of his church on baptism is that it is a naming ceremony, a dedication and consecration of the child, and a commitment by the parents to teach the child to grow in knowledge and love of God. It is not absolutely necessary for salvation. Water is used, but only the name of God the Father is mentioned in the formula.

PLYMOUTH BRETHREN: USUALLY INVALID

Each case must be examined individually.

POLISH NATIONAL CHURCH: VALID**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: VALID****QUAKERS: INVALID**

Enrollment on Sunday School rolls does not mean there was a baptism. The Society of Friends Church (by which the Quakers are also known) does not observe baptism as an outward rite, but rather as an inward work of God. There are no baptismal records. Baptism is spiritual, and “in no way strengthened by the application of water.” Since no water is used, there is no valid baptism.

REFORMED CHURCHES: VALID**REUNIFICATION CHURCH: INVALID**

SALVATION ARMY: INVALID

The Salvation Army Headquarters state they do not have a baptismal service, but a religious ceremony called a dedication service of children, and also a cradle roll. A certificate is issued for the dedication service, but is not to be confused with baptism.

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST: USUALLY VALID

The denomination in the United States generally administers valid baptism, but there are some groups in other countries that do not. There are also some communities who administered valid baptism only at various times in their history. It is important to either get the testimony of the person or the person's parents as to what happened and what was said, or else obtain a copy of the baptismal record, which usually tells something about the pouring of water and the formula that was used. (Source: Canon Law of the Sacraments for Parish Ministry, W. Woestman, OMI, Ottawa: 2007)

SHAKERS: See UNITED SOCIETY OF BELIEVERS

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS CHURCH: See QUAKERS

SPIRITUALIST CHURCH: INVALID

UNITARIANS/UNIVERSALISTS: INVALID

Universalists and Unitarians merged in 1961. Even before that time, Universalists favored ultimate salvation and rejected the doctrine of original sin. With time, they denied the Trinity and the Divinity of Jesus.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(including branches of Congregationalist, Evangelical and Reformed Church): **VALID**

UNITED SOCIETY OF BELIEVERS: INVALID

UNIVERSAL EMANCIPATION CHURCH: INVALID