



PONTIFICIUM CONSILIUM
DE LEGUM TEXTIBUS

Prot. N. 14839/2015

Vatican City, 17 April 2015

Dear Father,

With this letter I am responding to your letter of December 22, 2014, in which you asked this Pontifical Council to give an authentic interpretation on the question of a baptized Christian who wishes to come into full communion with the Catholic Church.

Having examined the question, I am pleased to indicate the following observations.

First, it must be noted that this question does not require an authentic interpretation since the immemorial praxis of the Church is quite clear on the obligation of each Christian faithful to retain their proper rite.

The Second Vatican Council reiterates this praxis at No. 4 of the Decree *Orientalium Ecclesiarum* in the following words: “*Each and every Catholic, as also the baptized of every non-Catholic church or denomination who enters into the fullness of the Catholic communion, must retain his own rite wherever he is, must cherish it and observe it to the best of his ability*”.

The proper rite indicates the *sui iuris* Church of the same rite to be ascribed when a baptized non-Catholic enters into full communion with the Catholic Church.

I hope that the above information will be helpful to you. Be assured of my best wishes and prayer for your ministry.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

✠ Francesco Cardinal Coccopalmerio
President

✠ Juan Ignacio Arrieta
Secretary