

Catholic Church allows transgender baptisms on condition of avoiding scandal

Nov. 9 (UPI) — The Catholic Church will allow transgender adults to be baptized under the same terms as any other person eligible to receive the holy sacrament so long as it does not bring scandal to the church, according to a major new religious doctrine issued by the Vatican.

The Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith issued new guidance Wednesday in favor of granting the rite of baptism, citing the Church's Code of Canon law, which says "for the child to be baptized there must be a well-founded hope that he or she will be educated in the Catholic religion."

The declaration, signed Oct. 31 by Pope Francis and Cardinal Victor Manuel Fernandez, the dicastery's prefect, comes in response to questions raised in July by Bishop Giuseppe Jose Negri, of Brazil, who sought guidance from church leaders on whether transgender or homosexual people were entitled to be baptized or named godparents to a baptized child.

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