

## APPENDIX 15

*The following is a suggestion for a thanksgiving service after the election.*

### THANKSGIVING SERVICE

*The thanksgiving service outlined below may be adapted to the particular circumstances of the community. It is suggested that the pectoral cross be given to the new abbot privately before the thanksgiving service or, if it is given in the election hall after the confirmation of the election, that it be given without prayer or ceremony.*

#### 1. PROCESSION

*After the election and confirmation of the abbot, the church bells will ring to summon the rest of the community, and the capitulars go in procession to the church, followed by the newly-elected abbot with the presiding officer, who go to the places prepared for them. When the entire community has assembled, the service begins.*

#### 2. HYMN

*The service may begin with a joyous hymn of praise.*

#### 3. PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*The presiding officer offers the following prayer:*

Gracious Father,  
 we thank you for the abiding presence  
 of your Son in our midst  
 and for the kindly light by which your Spirit has led us.  
 May these monks show their gratefulness to you  
 by loving and honoring their abbot,  
 so that together with him  
 they may come to enjoy eternal life in your kingdom.  
 We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

4. SHORT READING

*A text from the New Testament is read. One of the following may be used.*

1 Corinthians 1:4-9

Ephesians 4:3-7

Philippians 2:1-2a.3b-5

Colossians 3:12.14-15

Hebrews 13:17.20-21

5. KISS OF PEACE

*The newly-elected abbot receives the kiss of peace from the presiding officer and from the community.*

6. BLESSING

*The new abbot then confers his blessing upon the community. If he wishes, he may use one of the solemn blessings from the Sacramentary.*

7. CONCLUDING HYMN OF THANKSGIVING

*The service is concluded with the singing of the Te Deum, or a suitable psalm or canticle, e.g., Psalm 150 or Romans 8:14-18, or some other suitable hymn.*