

1 THE RITUAL
2
3 FOR USE IN THE MONASTERIES
4 OF THE
5
6 AMERICAN-CASSINESE CONGREGATION
7
8



10
11 APPROVED FOR USE
12 AD EXPERIMENTUM
13 BY
14 THE GENERAL CHAPTER
15 OF THE
16 AMERICAN-CASSINESE CONGREGATION
17 OF BENEDICTINE MONASTERIES
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INTRODUCTION

During the General Chapter of 1998, a committee was charged with assembling a prayer/ritual book as a resource for monasteries of our Congregation. The committee's charge from the Chapter was as follows:

The overall purpose of the committee is to prepare a draft of a book of prayers for optional use in the monasteries of our Congregation on occasions that are not adequately provided for by existing liturgical books. The intent of the General Chapter is to provide the kind of resource that was formerly supplied by the Rituale Monasticum. This involves neither the Eucharistic Liturgy, the Divine Office, nor sacramental rites, but rather prayer formulae suitable for community meals, meetings, retreats, and the many other ritual occasions that arise in the course of life in the monastery. The committee is also to undertake a review and suggest revisions in the rituals of monastic investiture and profession.

The committee itself will determine the range of situations for which the book should provide. Since most monasteries already have some prayers that are being used for these needs, the committee should collect the formulae that are available, evaluate them and include those that are judged most suitable, so that the user of the booklet may ordinarily have available more than one option. The committee should also draw upon the resources of other monastic congregations and orders, with due regard for copyrights and appropriate permissions, and may itself compose new formulae as it deems necessary. A draft of this collection should be completed by 2000, so that it may be sent to each community for evaluation, and the committee may receive reactions and make appropriate revisions before a revised draft is considered by the General Chapter of 2001.

This committee, chaired by Abbot Matthew Leavy of Saint Anselm Abbey, consisted of Fr. Kevin McGrath of Saint Bernard Abbey, Fr. Kurt Belsole of Saint Vincent Archabbey, and Fr. Lawrence Stasyszen of Saint Gregory's Abbey. After some preliminary planning, the committee met in 1999 to design a survey to be sent to all the communities of our Congregation.

Upon receipt of the survey responses, the committee decided to separate the materials pertaining to the Book of Prayers *per se* from those materials having to do with the rituals of monastic investiture, profession, etc. The draft texts for the Book of Prayers and the Ritual were sent to the monasteries of the congregation for comment. Both were presented to the General Chapter for consideration at its meeting in June of 2001. The Ritual was approved for use *ad experimentum* until the next General Chapter. The following is a brief summary of the contents in the document.

The *Rite of Religious Profession* approved for use in the American-Cassinense Congregation by the 37th General Chapter in June of 1971 and approved and confirmed by the Sacred

1 Congregation for Divine Worship on 25 September 1974 served as the basis for the present draft.
2 That *Rite of Religious Profession* itself follows very closely the English translation of the revised
3 *Rite of Religious Profession* from the Roman Ritual which was published by the United States
4 Catholic Conference in 1989.

5
6 This Ritual does not propose any substantive departures from the rites already approved. Some
7 sections of the 1975 rite have been deleted, as they no longer conform to the proper law of the
8 Congregation, e.g., the rite of making promises instead of simple vows. Other sections have
9 been updated according to the Constitution and Directory of the Congregation promulgated in
10 1990, e.g., the new formula for making profession. The survey responses also expressed a desire
11 that rituals be included to mark the beginning of postulancy, for beginning the period of
12 probation for someone transferring or seeking readmission to the monastery, and for the
13 celebration of monastic jubilees. Rites and texts for these occasions have been included in this
14 present text. Other modifications of our 1975 ritual are presented as options which are currently
15 used in some of our monasteries, e.g. the blessing and bestowal of the cuculla, the use of the
16 funeral pall at solemn profession, and the greeting and response at the kiss of peace. By
17 proceeding in this fashion, the committee wished to provide the monasteries of the Congregation
18 with appropriate texts and suggest where the various actions would come in the rites, should a
19 community choose to include them. Such rites and texts derive from the American-Cassinese
20 tradition and are largely taken from the *Rituale Monasticum* (Collegeville, MN: Saint John's
21 Abbey Press, 1942).

22
23 We have not included the selections of scriptural readings as presented in the Lectionary, nor the
24 prayers and prefaces proper to Masses of Religious Profession that are included in the
25 Sacramentary, as the revision of both of these liturgical books is currently in progress.

26
27 The Ritual is being distributed to the monasteries of the congregation in booklet form and on disk
28 so that each community can more easily make the necessary adaptations and modifications of the
29 rites in particular circumstances.

1 Chapter 1

2
3 **RITE OF RECEPTION OR BLESSING OF POSTULANTS**

- 4
- 5 1. *If a community has a postulancy, and if it wishes to use a rite of reception or blessing,*
 - 6 *one of the following may be used.*
 - 7
 - 8 2. *The rite is to be very simple and direct, in the presence of the religious community.*
 - 9 *However, those who bring the postulant to the monastery may be invited to be present*
 - 10 *for the rite.*
 - 11
 - 12

13 **RECEPTION OF POSTULANTS AT THE DOOR OF THE ENCLOSURE**

- 14
- 15 3. *The ceremony takes place at the entrance area of the monastery.*
 - 16
 - 17 4. *The community gathers behind the Abbot, who wears the cuculla and stands with*
 - 18 *crozier, according to the custom of the house.*
 - 19
 - 20 5. *When all are in place, the vocation director presents the candidate(s) for postulancy.*
 - 21

22 **Vocation Director**

23
24 Abbot N., these men have requested to be received as postulants to our community: N. and N.

- 25
- 26 6. *The Abbot then gives a brief exhortation, ending with one of the following, or similar*
 - 27 *words:*
 - 28

29 **Abbot**

30
31 N. and N., you have asked to be received as postulants in our community. During this time
32 you will join us in our daily common life of prayer, work and fellowship. It is our hope that
33 your experience of our Benedictine way of life will be of help to you as you continue in your
34 discernment of God’s will in your lives.

35 Now bow your heads and pray for God’s blessing as you begin your journey as postulants in
36 our community.

37
38 **OR**

39
40 In his rule, our Holy Father Benedict declares, “Do not grant newcomers to the monastic life
41 an easy entry, but as the apostle says, ‘test the spirits to see if they are from God.’ Therefore,
42 if someone comes and keeps knocking at the door and if at the end of four or five days he has
43 shown himself patient in bearing harsh treatment and difficulty of entry, and has persisted in
44 his request, then he should be allowed to enter” (RB 58:1-4a).

1
2 My friend(s), your entry has already been marked by a period of discernment and testing.
3 Realize that in the future you will have the support of many brothers to help ease the burdens
4 you may have to endure. Reflect that, it is by patience that we share in the sufferings of
5 Christ, that we may deserve also to share in His Kingdom. My brother(s), prefer nothing
6 whatever to Christ and may He bring us all together to everlasting life.

7
8 Now bow your head(s) and pray for God's blessing as you begin your journey as postulant(s)
9 in our community.

10
11 7. *The Abbot extends his hand over the postulants for the blessing.*

12
13 **Abbot:**

14
15 May almighty God bless you in his mercy, and make you always aware of his saving wisdom.

16 **Amen.**

17 May he strengthen your faith with proofs of his love, so that you will persevere in good
18 works.

19 **Amen.**

20 May he direct your steps to himself, and show you how to walk in charity and peace.

21 **Amen.**

22 May almighty God bless you, the Father, \cong and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

23 **Amen.**

24
25 8. *At the end of the blessing, the postulants may be sprinkled with holy water.*

26
27 9. *If it is the custom of the community, the Abbot now presents the sign of postulancy:*
28 *e.g. tunic, medal or cross.*

29
30 **Abbot**

31
32 N. (and N.), accept this _____ as an outward sign of your postulancy in our
33 community. May it be for you a sign of hope, and remind you of the gift of eternal life that is
34 ours in Christ Jesus our Lord.

35
36 10. *The Abbot then addresses the community.*

37
38 Confreres, welcome N. (and N.) into our midst and help him (them) to run with love in the
39 way of God's commandments.

40
41 11. *The community may extend an appropriate sign of peace.*

42 12. *The postulant(s) is/are led into the enclosure.*

1 RECEPTION OF POSTULANTS BEFORE VESPERS

2
3 13. *The ceremony takes place at the entrance of the monastery, or in the place of*
4 *gathering for statio.*

5
6 14. *The community gathers behind the Abbot, who wears the cuculla and stands with*
7 *crozier.*

8
9 15. *When all are in place, the vocation director presents the candidate(s) for postulancy.*

10
11 **Vocation Director**

12
13 Abbot N., these men have requested to be received as postulants to our community: N. and N.

14
15 16. *The Abbot then gives a brief exhortation, which should end in one of the following, or*
16 *similar words:*

17
18 **Abbot**

19
20 N. and N., you have asked to be received as postulants in our community. During this time
21 you will join us in our daily common life of prayer, work and fellowship. It is our hope that
22 your experience of our Benedictine way of life will be of help to you as you continue in your
23 discernment of God’s will in your lives.

24
25 Now bow your heads and pray for God’s blessing as you begin your journey as postulants in
26 our community.

27
28 **OR**

29
30 In his rule, our Holy Father Benedict declares, “Do not grant newcomers to the monastic life
31 an easy entry, but as the apostle says, ‘test the spirits to see if they are from God.’ Therefore,
32 if someone comes and keeps knocking at the door and if at the end of four or five days he has
33 shown himself patient in bearing harsh treatment and difficulty of entry, and has persisted in
34 his request, then he should be allowed to enter” (RB 58:1-4a).

35
36 My friend(s), your entry has already been marked by a period of discernment and testing.
37 Realize that in the future you will have the support of many brothers to help ease the burdens
38 you may have to endure. Reflect that, it is by patience that we share in the sufferings of
39 Christ, that we may deserve also to share in His Kingdom. My brother(s), prefer nothing
40 whatever to Christ and may He bring us all together to everlasting life.

41
42 Now bow your head(s) and pray for God’s blessing as you begin your journey as postulant(s)
43 in our community.

44
45 17. *The Abbot extends his hand over the postulants for the blessing.*

1 **Abbot:**
2
3 May almighty God bless you in his mercy, and make you always aware of his saving wisdom.
4 **Amen.**
5 May he strengthen your faith with proofs of his love, so that you will persevere in good
6 works.
7 **Amen.**
8 May he direct your steps to himself, and show you how to walk in charity and peace.
9 **Amen.**
10 May almighty God bless you, the Father, \cong and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
11 **Amen.**
12
13 18. *At the end of the blessing, the postulants may be sprinkled with holy water.*
14
15 19. *If it is the custom of the community, the Abbot now presents the sign of postulancy:*
16 *e.g. tunic, medal or cross.*
17
18 **Abbot:**
19
20 N. (and N.), accept this _____ as an outward sign of your postulancy in our community.
21 May it be for you a sign of hope, and remind you of the gift of eternal life that is ours in
22 Christ Jesus our Lord.
23
24 20. *The Abbot then addresses the community.*
25
26 **Abbot:**
27
28 Confreres, welcome N. (and N.) into our midst and help him (them) to run with love in the
29 way of God's commandments.
30
31 21. *The postulant(s) are led to their place in statio.*
32
33 22. *The cantor intones the antiphon for Psalm 133, which is then repeated by the*
34 *community. All process to the church for vespers.*
35
36 How good and pleasant when brothers live together in unity!
37
38 23. *Vespers follows as usual.*

1 RECEPTION OF POSTULANTS DURING LAUDS OR VESPERS

2
3 24. *The blessing of postulants takes place during either Lauds or Vespers.*

4
5 25. *After the reading, the Abbot in cuculla and with his crozier goes to the presider's*
6 *chair.*

7
8 26. *The vocation director calls the candidates forward to present them to the Abbot and*
9 *community.*

10
11 **Vocation Director:**

12
13 Will those who wish to be admitted as Postulants for our community please come forward: N.
14 and N.

15
16 27. *The candidates stand in front of the Abbot.*

17
18 28. *The Abbot delivers a brief exhortation, which should end with one of the following, or*
19 *similar words:*

20
21 **Abbot:**

22
23 N. and N., you have asked to be received as postulants in our community. During this time
24 you will join us in our daily common life of prayer, work and fellowship. It is our hope that
25 your experience of our Benedictine way of life will be of help to you as you continue in your
26 discernment of God's will in your lives.

27
28 Now bow your heads and pray for God's blessing as you begin your journey as postulants in
29 our community.

30
31 **OR**

32
33 In his rule, our Holy Father Benedict declares, "Do not grant newcomers to the monastic life
34 an easy entry, but as the apostle says, 'test the spirits to see if they are from God.' Therefore,
35 if someone comes and keeps knocking at the door and if at the end of four or five days he has
36 shown himself patient in bearing harsh treatment and difficulty of entry, and has persisted in
37 his request, then he should be allowed to enter" (RB 58:1-4a).

38
39 My friend(s), your entry has already been marked by a period of discernment and testing.
40 Realize that in the future you will have the support of many brothers to help ease the burdens
41 you may have to endure. Reflect that, it is by patience that we share in the sufferings of
42 Christ, that we may deserve also to share in His Kingdom. My brother(s), prefer nothing
43 whatever to Christ and may He bring us all together to everlasting life.

44
45 Now bow your head(s) and pray for God's blessing as you begin your journey as postulant(s)

1 in our community.

2
3 29. *The Abbot extends his hand over the postulants.*

4
5 **Abbot:**

6
7 May almighty God bless you in his mercy, and make you always aware of his saving wisdom.

8 **Amen.**

9 May he strengthen your faith with proofs of his love, so that you will persevere in good
10 works.

11 **Amen.**

12 May he direct your steps to himself, and show you how to walk in charity and peace.

13 **Amen.**

14 May almighty God bless you, the Father, \cong and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

15 **Amen.**

16
17 **OR**

18
19 Let us pray: Lord God, you give us the desire to hear your call. Listen favorably to the
20 prayers of your servants N. and N., whom you have inspired to come here this day. Inspire
21 them as they seek you through the monastic way of life in our community. Help us as
22 members of this community to welcome them as postulants and to guide them as they
23 respond to your call. Strengthen all of us in your service as we seek you through the
24 monastic way of life.

25
26 **All Respond**

27 Amen.

28
29 30. *If it is the custom of the community, the Abbot now presents the sign of postulancy:*
30 *e.g. tunic, medal or cross.*

31
32 **Abbot**

33
34 N. and N., accept this _____ as an outward sign of your postulancy in our community.

35 May it be for you a sign of hope, and remind you of the gift of eternal life that is ours in
36 Christ Jesus our Lord.

37
38 31. *The Abbot and postulants exchange the Sign of Peace and all return to their places.*

39
40 32. *The Benedictus/Magnificat follows immediately.*

41
42 33. *The community may extend the Sign of Peace at the conclusion of lauds/vespers.*

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CHAPTER 2

RITE OF ENTRANCE INTO THE NOVITIATE

Description of the Rite

(Adapted from the 1975 American-Cassinese Ritual, which nearly duplicates the *The Rite of Religious Profession, 1970.*)

1. *On the day when the canonical novitiate begins, it is fitting that there should be a ceremony to ask God's grace for achieving the special purpose of the novitiate.*
2. *It is forbidden to perform the rite of initiation during Mass.*
3. *The rite is to be very simple and direct, in the presence of the community only. However, if circumstances warrant, others may be present.*
4. *The texts for the rite must avoid anything that may seem to diminish the novices' freedom of choice or obscure the true meaning of the novitiate as a time of testing.*
5. *The chapter room or other area is an appropriate setting for the rite. The rite may also take place in the abbey church during a celebration of the Word of God: e.g., Lauds or Vespers.*

RITE OF RECEPTION OF NOVICES IN THE CHAPTER ROOM

6. *The Rite takes place in the Chapter Room. The Abbot, with crozier, takes his usual place.*
7. *The rite may begin with a greeting by the Abbot, or the singing of a psalm or other suitable hymn.*

READING FROM SCRIPTURE

8. *An appropriate passage from the Word of God is read.*

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES

9. *The Vocation Director or Postulant Director presents the candidates to the Abbot and Community.*

VOCATION DIRECTOR/POSTULANT DIRECTOR

Abbot N., these men, N. and N., seek admission as novices in our monastic way of life.

1
2 **QUESTION TO NOVICES FROM ABBOT**
3

4 *10. The abbot questions the candidates.*
5

6 **Abbot**
7

8 What is it you seek?
9

10 *10. The candidates respond with the following or similar words:*
11

12 **Candidates**
13

14 The mercy of God and fellowship in this community.
15

16 **OR**
17

18 The mercy of God and admission to the novitiate.
19

20 *12. The questioning may be omitted, and the request for admission may take place as*
21 *follows: one of the candidates, facing the abbot, speaks in the name of all.*
22

23 Drawn by God's mercy and love, we have come here to take up the way of life of this
24 community. We ask you all to guide us in our quest for God, by the example of your lives
25 and the wisdom of your Rule. Teach us to be one with you in heart and soul. In this way we
26 hope to learn and practice Christ's law of love.
27

28 **EXHORTATION AND EXAMINATION**
29

30 *13. The Abbot responds with an exhortation and examination.*
31

32 **Abbot**
33

34 My dear brothers in Christ, we recognize your desire to undertake our way of life, but as the
35 Apostle says: "Test the spirits to see whether they are from God." For this reason we cannot
36 grant you an easy admittance. We must first determine whether you truly seek God, and are
37 zealous for the work of God, for obedience and the practice of humble service. We must also
38 tell you all the trials and hardships through which we make our journey to God.
39

40 And so I ask you, are you willing to live in our community and begin to seek God as a novice
41 in our monastic way of life?
42

43 **Candidates**
44

45 I am.

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Abbot

May the Lord bring to perfection the good he has begun in you.

All respond:

Amen.

ACCEPTANCE BY THE COMMUNITY

Abbot

My brothers, are you willing to accept these men as novices in our community?

Community

We are. Thanks be to God.

Abbot

Having heard the consent of our community, I accept you as novices in our way of life.

PRAYER

Abbot

Almighty God, it is you who bestow upon each of us our vocation. Hear our prayers and bless these brothers who wish to undertake our way of life. Help them to know your holy will, and strengthen us all in your service. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All Respond:

Amen.

OR

Almighty God, through the Spirit of your Son in the Church, you call men to seek and find you. Hear the prayers of your sons, N. and N., as they ask to join our community. Grant that our life together may bring us to prefer nothing to the love of your Son, Christ our Lord.

All Respond:

Amen.

OPTIONAL: TONSURE

1
2 14. *If it is the custom of the community, the newly admitted novices come before the*
3 *Abbot to receive the monastic tonsure.*
4

5 **OPTIONAL: INVESTITURE**
6

7 15. *According to the custom of the community, each novice goes to the Abbot and kneels*
8 *to receive part of the monastic habit, assisted by the Novice Master and Prior. The*
9 *investiture may be done in silence, or with one of the formulae provided in the*
10 *Appendix.*
11

12 **OPTIONAL: GIVING OF MONASTIC NAME**
13

14 **Abbot**
15

16 So that you may be reminded daily that you have taken on a new way of life, I give you the
17 following names of saints by which you shall be called. May you always be conscious of the
18 virtues of these saints, may they lead you to the day of your profession and guide you to your
19 heavenly goal. N., you shall be known as Brother N.
20

21 **OPTIONAL: PRESENTATION OF THE *RULE OF ST. BENEDICT***
22

23 16. *The presentation of the Rule may take place at this time. The presentation is made*
24 *explicitly in connection with the spirit and purpose of the novitiate as a period of*
25 *discernment and testing. The following or similar words may be used:*
26

27 **Abbot**
28

29 Receive this Rule of our most holy Father Benedict, which sanctified our fathers in the
30 monastic life. Read it and study it, that you may know what you are undertaking in this
31 community. By God's grace may it become your way of life.
32

33 **FINAL BLESSING**
34

35 17. *The Abbot and Community stand while the novices remain kneeling for the final*
36 *blessing.*
37

38
39 **Abbot**
40

41 Let us pray.

42 Loving and merciful Father, through the humility of your Son you show us the way to return
43 to you. Look upon these, your servants, who wish to follow Christ to glory. Open their eyes
44 to your divinizing light, and their ears to the voice of your Holy Spirit. We ask this through
45 Christ our Lord.

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OR

Let us pray.
O God, you have willed that your Son would embrace our humanity so that our human nature might be lifted up to you. Bless + these your sons who desire to follow you in the monastic way of life. Give them strength and perseverance that they may become your worthy and humble servants. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

OR

Let us pray.
Keep us, Lord, in that joy, simplicity and kind regard for others taught us by the Gospel and the life and Rule of our Holy Father Benedict; bless these candidates who wish to enter into our way of life. Help them to know your holy will, and strengthen us all in your service. May we come to that love which casts out fear. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All Respond:

Amen.

KISS OF PEACE

Abbot: May the Lord strengthen you in your resolution.
Novice: Pray for me.

18. *After this, the Abbot entrusts the newly admitted novices to the care of the novice master, who greets them along with the members of the community in the spirit of Christian love. The above greeting and response may be used by all for the Kiss of Peace. An appropriate song or canticle of praise may be sung.*

RITE OF RECEPTION OF NOVICES AT LAUDS OR VESPERS

19. *The Rite takes place in the abbey church during the celebration of Lauds or Vespers. The Abbot should preside at the celebration.*
20. *The rite should begin after the reading from scripture.*

READING FROM SCRIPTURE

21. *An appropriate passage from the Word of God is read; e.g., Proverbs 3:1-8, 11-18.*

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES

1 22. *The Vocation Director or Postulant Director presents the candidates to the Abbot and*
2 *Community.*

3
4 **VOCATION DIRECTOR/POSTULANT DIRECTOR**

5
6 Will those seeking admission to the novitiate please come forward: N. and N.

7
8 23. *The Vocation Director leads those to be received into the sanctuary where they stand*
9 *facing the Abbot.*

10
11 Abbot N., these men, N. and N., seek admission as novices in our monastic way of life.

12
13 **QUESTION TO NOVICES FROM ABBOT**

14
15 24. *The abbot gives a brief address and then questions the candidates.*

16
17 **Abbot**

18
19 What is it you seek?

20
21 25. *The candidates respond with the following or similar words:*

22
23 **Candidates**

24
25 The mercy of God and fellowship in this community.

26
27 **OR**

28
29 The mercy of God and admission to the novitiate.

30
31 **OR**

32
33 25. *The questioning may be omitted, and the request for admission may take place as*
34 *follows: one of the candidates, facing the abbot, speaks in the name of all.*

35
36 Drawn by God's mercy and love, we have come here to take up the way of life of this
37 community. We ask you all to guide us in our quest for God, by the example of your lives
38 and the wisdom of your Rule. Teach us to be one with you in heart and soul. In this way we
39 hope to learn and practice Christ's law of love.

40
41 **EXHORTATION AND EXAMINATION**

42
43 27. *The Abbot responds with an exhortation and examination.*

44
45 **Abbot**

1
2 My dear brothers in Christ, we recognize your desire to undertake our way of life, but as the
3 Apostle says: "Test the spirits to see whether they are from God." For this reason we cannot
4 grant you an easy admittance. We must first determine whether you truly seek God, and are
5 zealous for the work of God, for obedience and the practice of humble service. We must also
6 tell you all the trials and hardships through which we make our journey to God.
7 And so I ask you, are you willing to live in our community and begin to seek God as a novice
8 in our monastic way of life?

9
10 **Candidates**

11
12 I am.

13
14 **Abbot**

15
16 May the Lord bring to perfection the good he has begun in you.

17
18 **All respond:**

19
20 Amen.

21
22 **ACCEPTANCE BY THE COMMUNITY**

23
24 **Abbot**

25
26 My brothers, are you willing to accept these men as novices in our community?

27
28 **Community**

29
30 We are. Thanks be to God.

31
32 **Abbot**

33
34 Having heard the consent of our community, I accept you as novices in our way of life.

35
36 **PRAYER**

37
38 **Abbot**

39
40 God, it is you who give us our vocation. Hear our prayers and bless these brothers who wish
41 to undertake our way of life. Help them to know your holy will, and strengthen us all in your
42 service. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

43
44 **All Respond:**

45

1 Amen.

2
3 **OR**

4
5 Almighty God, through the Spirit of your Son in the Church, you call men to seek and find
6 you. Hear the prayers of your sons, N. and N., as they ask to join our community. Grant that
7 our life together may bring us to prefer nothing to the love of your Son, Christ our Lord.

8
9 **All Respond:**

10
11 Amen.

12
13 **OPTIONAL: TONSURE**

14
15 28. *If it is the custom of the community, the newly admitted novices come before the*
16 *Abbot to receive the monastic tonsure.*

17
18 **OPTIONAL: INVESTITURE**

19
20 29. *According to the custom of the community, each novice goes to the Abbot and kneels*
21 *to receive the monastic habit, assisted by the Novice Master. The investiture may be*
22 *done in silence, or with one of the formulae provided in the Appendix.*

23
24 **OPTIONAL: GIVING OF MONASTIC NAME**

25
26 **Abbot**

27
28 So that you may be reminded daily that you have taken on a new way of life, I give you the
29 following names of saints by which you shall be called. May you always be conscious of the
30 virtues of these saints, may they lead you to the day of your profession and guide you to your
31 heavenly goal. N., you shall be known as Brother N.

32
33 **OPTIONAL: PRESENTATION OF THE *RULE OF St. BENEDICT***

34
35 30. *The presentation of the Rule may take place at this time. The presentation is made*
36 *explicitly in connection with the spirit and purpose of the novitiate as a period of*
37 *discernment and testing. The following or similar words may be used:*

38
39 **Abbot**

40
41 Receive this Rule of our most holy Father Benedict, which sanctified our fathers in the
42 monastic life. Read it and study it, that you may know what you are undertaking in this
43 community. By God's grace may it become your way of life.

44
45 **OPTIONAL: KISS OF PEACE**

1
2 31. *If the Kiss of Peace is given only by the Abbot to the novices, it is given at this time.*

3
4 **Abbot:** May the Lord strengthen you in your resolution.

5
6 **Novice:** Pray for me.

7
8 32. *The novices take their proper places in the choir.*

9
10 **GOSPEL CANTICLE**

11
12 33. *The Benedictus/Magnificat is sung as usual.*

13
14 **PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL**

15
16 34. *Intercessions proper to the occasion or a litany should be included. The following*
17 *litany of prayers may be used:*

18
19 **Abbot**

20
21 Let us pray for the novices and for our community as we say: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

22
23 Lord, help them become true seekers of God. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

24 Establish us all more firmly in the way that leads to you. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

25 Lord, make them zealous for the work of God. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

26 Renew in us our love for prayer. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

27 Lord, lead them in the labor of obedience. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

28 Increase our readiness to do your will. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

29 Lord, show them humility and truth. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

30 Strengthen us to honor and serve one another. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

31 Lord, sustain them in love. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

32 Increase our good zeal for the love of the community. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

33 Lord, give them perseverance in the school of your service. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

34 Renew a steadfast spirit within us. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

35 Lord, bring us all with our deceased confreres together to life everlasting. **Lord, hear our**
36 **prayer.**

37
38 And now let us pray as Christ taught us: *Our Father...*

39
40 **COLLECT**

41
42 35. *One of the following prayers or another appropriate prayer may be used:*

43
44 **Abbot**

45

1 Keep us, Lord, in that joy, simplicity and kind regard for others taught us by the Gospel and
2 the life and Rule of our Holy Father Benedict. Bless these novices who wish to share our
3 way of life. Help them to know your holy will, and strengthen us all in your service. May we
4 come to that love which casts out fear. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

5
6 **OR**

7
8 Loving and merciful Father, through the humility of your Son you show us the way to return
9 to you. Look upon this, your servant, who wishes to follow Christ to glory. Open his eyes to
10 your divinizing light, and his ears to the voice of your Holy Spirit. We ask this through
11 Christ our Lord.

12
13 **OR**

14
15 O God, you have willed that your Son would embrace our humanity so that humanity might
16 be lifted up to you. Bless + this your son who desires to follow you in the monastic way of
17 life. Give him strength and perseverance that he may become your worthy and humble
18 servant. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

19
20 **OR**

21
22 Keep us, Lord, in that joy, simplicity and kind regard for others taught us by the Gospel and
23 the life and Rule of our Holy Father Benedict; bless these candidates who wish to enter into
24 our way of life. Help them to know your holy will, and strengthen us all in your service; may
25 we come to that love which casts out fear. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

26
27 **All Respond:**

28
29 Amen.

30
31 **FINAL BLESSING**

32
33 **Abbot**

34
35 May the Lord, with his word of blessing, unite our hearts in the bond of brotherhood. And
36 may almighty God bless you, + the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

37
38 **All Respond:**

39
40 Amen.

41
42 **OPTIONAL: KISS OF PEACE**

43
44 36. *After the blessing, the novices enter the sanctuary to receive the kiss of peace first*
45 *from the Abbot and then from the members of the entire community.*

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Chapter 3

RITE OF TEMPORARY PROFESSION DURING MASS

(Adapted from the 1975 American-Cassinese Ritual—which seems to come almost verbatim from The Rite of Religious Profession, 1970)

1. *The rite described in this chapter takes place during Mass. It may be used only for those religious who make their first profession upon successful completion of the novitiate.*
2. *The Mass may correspond to the liturgy of the day, or the ritual Mass for the day of first profession may be used, in accordance with the rubrics.*
3. *In clerical institutes it is proper for the superior who receives the profession to preside over the eucharistic sacrifice.*
4. *The profession ordinarily takes place at the chair; if circumstances so dictate, the chair may be placed in front of the altar. Seats should be so arranged in the sanctuary for those making profession that the faithful have a complete view of the liturgical rites.*
5. *Enough bread and wine for consecration should be prepared for the ministers, those making their profession, and their parents, relatives, and fellow religious. If only one chalice is used, it should be sufficiently large.*
6. *In addition to what is needed for Mass, there should also be ready:
 - 1) the ritual for religious profession;
 - 2) the religious habit;
 - 3) the Holy Rule (optional).*

32
33
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35
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41

INTRODUCTORY RITES

7. *When the people and the religious are assembled and everything is ready, the procession moves through the church to the altar in the usual way, while the choir and people sing the entrance song of the Mass. Those to be professed may fittingly join in the procession, accompanied by the novice master.*
8. *When they come to the sanctuary all make the customary reverence to the altar and go to their places; then Mass continues.*

42
43
44

LITURGY OF THE WORD

9. *The liturgy of the word takes place as usual, except for the following:*

1 1) the readings may be taken from the Mass of the day or from the texts
2 provided in the Lectionary for Masses of Religious Profession;
3 2) the profession of faith is not said, even if prescribed by the rubrics of the
4 day.
5

6 **RELIGIOUS PROFESSION**
7

8
9 **CALLING**
10

11 10. *After the gospel, the Abbot and the people sit, but those to be professed remain*
12 *standing. Then the deacon or novice master calls those/him to be professed by name.*
13

14 **Deacon or Novice Master:**
15

16 Would those to be professed please come forward?
17

18 Brother/Novice (monastic name, if it was given at novitiate) (baptismal name) (surname)
19

20 *[(If there is only one candidate for profession, the following is used.)*
21

22 **Deacon or Novice Master:**
23

24 Would Brother/Novice (monastic name, if it was given at novitiate) (baptismal name)
25 (surname) who is about to be professed please come forward?
26

27
28 **QUESTIONING BY THE ABBOT OR REQUEST BY THE NOVICES**
29

30 **Abbot:**
31

32 My dear son(s), what do you ask of God and of his holy Church?
33

34 **Candidate(s):**
35

36 We (I) ask for the mercy of God and for the grace to serve him faithfully in this community.
37

38 **OR**
39

40 *The calling by name and the questioning by the Abbot may be omitted; a request by those to*
41 *be professed may take their place; e.g., one of those to be professed stands facing the Abbot*
42 *and speaks in the name of all in these or similar words:*
43

44 Abbot N. and monks of N. Abbey,
45 during the time of novitiate we have lived among you as brothers

1 and shared your monastic life
2 in the common celebration of the Work of God,
3 in silent reflection on the Word of God,
4 and by a study of the Rule of Saint Benedict under the guidance of the novice master.
5 We now humbly ask you
6 that we may dedicate ourselves to God and his Kingdom
7 by making our profession in this community
8 and by embracing the Rule as our norm of common life.

9
10
11 **ACCEPTANCE BY THE ABBOT AND COMMUNITY**

12
13 **Abbot:**

14
15 After the deliberations of the monastic chapter, I accept Brother N. and Brother N. as
16 candidates for temporary profession.

17
18 **Capitulars:**

19
20 We also accept them. Thanks be to God.

21
22
23 **HOMILY AND/OR ADDRESS BY THE ABBOT**

24
25 *11. Those to be professed then sit and listen to the homily or an address which should*
26 *develop the scriptural readings and the theme of religious profession as God's gift*
27 *and call for the sanctification of those chosen and for the good of the Church and the*
28 *whole human family.*

29
30 *The following address by the Abbot may conclude the homily.*

31
32 **Abbot:**

33
34 Beloved brother(s), when the Lord sought his laborer among the multitude of the of the
35 people, he asked: "Who is the man that desires life and wants to see good days?" You heard
36 his words, and by the inspiration of divine grace, you answered: "I am he."

37
38 Renouncing your own will, you have asked to be admitted into our monastery to do battle for
39 Christ the true King.

40
41 You have completed your year of novitiate, and today you stand in the midst of your brothers,
42 before God and his angels and saints, to make your first vows of stability in this community,
43 conversion through a monastic manner of life, and obedience according to the Rule of our
44 Holy Father Benedict and the law proper to our Congregation.

1 Endeavor that during this time of your first profession you may continue to truly seek God
2 and remain zealous for obedience, the Work of God, and humble service. May you advance
3 more and more in the life of faith so that, with time, you may run the way of God's
4 commandments with an expanded heart and the inexpressible delight of love. (c.f., *Rituale*
5 *Monasticum* 1942.)
6
7

8 **EXAMINATION**
9

10 12. After the homily and/or address, those to be professed stand, and the abbot questions
11 them on their readiness to undertake the obligations of simple profession. The
12 questions may be changed or in part omitted, to suit the spirit and character of each
13 abbey.
14

15 *Those to be professed stand and the Abbot questions them.*
16

17 **Abbot:**
18

19 My dear son(s),
20 by water and the Holy Spirit
21 you have already been consecrated to God's service.
22 Are you resolved to be more closely united to him
23 by the bond of monastic profession?
24

25 **Candidate:**
26

27 I am resolved.
28

29 **Abbot:**
30

31 In your desire to follow Christ more perfectly,
32 are you resolved
33 to observe stability in this community,
34 to strive for daily conversion through a monastic manner of life,
35 and to offer the sacrifice of obedience?
36

37 **Candidate(s):**
38

39 I am resolved.
40

41 13. Then the Abbot confirms their intention in these or similar words:
42

43 **Abbot:**
44

45 May Almighty God give you his grace to fulfill your resolutions.

1
2 **PRAYER BY THE ABBOT**

3
4 **Abbot** (*Standing without miter*)

5
6 Let us pray. (Pause)

7
8 Lord, look upon these servants (this servant) of yours
9 who are (is) resolved to dedicate their lives (his life) to you
10 by professing the gospel life
11 as expressed in the Rule of Our Holy Father Benedict.
12 In your love, grant that their (his) way of life
13 may bring glory to your name and further your plan of redemption.
14 We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

15
16 **Amen.**

17
18
19 **PROFESSION**

20
21 *14. The Abbot is seated, with crozier and miter. Two monks stand beside the Abbot as*
22 *witnesses. The candidates kneel before the Abbot and one by one read the formula of*
23 *profession. The candidate holds the bottom of the document while the Abbot holds*
24 *the top.*

25 In the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

26 I, Brother N., of (city, state), Diocese of N.,

27 promise with vows valid for three years,

28 before God and his saints,

29 in the presence of our Father in Christ, Abbot N.,

30 and the monks of this monastery,

31 stability in this community,

32 conversion through a monastic way of life,

33 and obedience according to the *Rule*

34 of our Holy Father Benedict

35 and the law proper to our Congregation.

36 In witness whereof I have prepared this document

37 and signed it here at N. (abbey/priory)

38 in the year of our Lord _____,

39 on the _____ day of _____ (month),

40 the feast of _____.

41
42
43 *After the reading of the profession formula, the novice signs it on the altar in the*
44 *presence of witnesses and places the document in the center of the altar.*
45

1 15. The Abbot removes the miter and gives the crozier to the Master of Ceremonies.

2
3
4 **SUSCIPE**

5
6 16. *All stand. The newly-professed stand in the sanctuary, and with arms extended, sing*
7 *the Suscipe, each time on a higher tone. After each singing of the Suscipe, the*
8 *candidate kneels and bows his head while all repeat the Suscipe. After the third*
9 *singing of the Suscipe by the congregation, the Glory be to the Father is added.*

10
11 *For text and music of the Suscipe, see Appendix.*

12
13 **PRAYER FOR THE NEWLY-PROFESSED**

14
15 **Abbot.**

16
17 Lord,
18 Look upon these servants (this servant) of yours
19 who are (is) resolved to dedicate their lives (his life) to you
20 by making profession of the evangelical counsels
21 in the presence of your Church today.
22 Mercifully grant that their (his) manner of life
23 may bring glory to your name
24 and further your loving plan of redemption.
25 We ask this through Christ our Lord.

26
27 **Amen**

28
29 **BLESSING OF HABIT** (scapular and hood) (optional)

30
31 17. *The cinctures, scapulars and hoods are brought before the Abbot.*

32
33 **Abbot:**

34
35 Let us pray.

36
37 *Pause*

38
39 Lord, Jesus Christ, you chose to clothe yourself in our mortality.
40 We humbly ask you to bless + and sanctify + these (this) habit(s).
41 Our holy fathers wore the monastic habit
42 as a sign of their humility and renunciation of the world.
43 May they (he) who are about to be invested in these habits (this habit)
44 be clothed with glory on the last day,
45 for you live and reign, God, forever and ever.

1
2 **R. Amen.**

3
4 *The Abbot sprinkles the habits with holy water.*

5
6
7 **INVESTITURE**

8
9 18. *The Abbot sits, receives the miter, and vests the senior of the newly-professed with the*
10 *habit, according to the custom of the community, saying these or similar words:*

11
12 **Abbot:**

13 N., put on this clothing as a sign of your consecration;
14 may you keep in your heart that dedication to the Lord which this habit outwardly proclaims.

15
16 **OR**

17
18 *Since there is some variation in the monasteries of the congregation as to which parts*
19 *of the habit are given at first profession, there is a selection of prayers in the*
20 *Appendix, which can be adapted according to the circumstances of each community.*

21
22 **PRESENTATION OF THE HOLY RULE**

23
24 19. The abbot presents a copy of the Rule to the newly professed.

25
26 **Abbot:**

27
28 Receive the Rule which you have freely accepted as your law of life.
29 By keeping it faithfully, may you arrive at the perfection of love.

30
31 **R. Amen.**

32
33 **KISS OF PEACE**

34
35 *(followed by the General Intercessions which include an intercession for the newly*
36 *professed)*

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Chapter 4

RITE OF SOLEMN PROFESSION

RITE OF SOLEMN PROFESSION DURING MASS

1. *It is fitting that the rite of profession by which a monk binds himself to God for ever should take place on a Sunday or a solemnity of the Lord, of the Blessed Virgin Mary, or of a saint distinguished in the living of the religious life.*
2. *The rite of solemn profession takes place separately from other rites of profession.*
3. *Notice of the day and hour should be given to the faithful in good time so that they may attend in greater numbers.*
4. *The Mass is that of the liturgy of the day, or the ritual Mass for the day of perpetual religious profession may be used, in accordance with the rubrics.*
5. *Where possible and if the needs of the faithful do not demand individual celebration by the priests present, it is preferable that the Mass be concelebrated. The abbot should be the celebrant.*
6. *Profession ordinarily takes place in the church of the religious community. For pastoral reasons, however, or in order to promote esteem for the religious life, to give edification to the People of God, or to permit larger attendance, the rite may take place in the cathedral, parish church, or some other notable church, as may seem fitting.*
7. *As the nature of the rite demands, the whole liturgical service should be celebrated with fitting solemnity, but any appearance of lavishness unbecoming to religious poverty should be avoided.*
8. *The profession ordinarily takes place at the chair. To enable the faithful to take part more easily, the celebrant's chair may be placed in front of the altar. Seats should be so arranged in the sanctuary for those making profession that the faithful may have a complete view of the liturgical rites.*
9. *Enough bread and wine for consecration should be prepared for the ministers, those making their profession, and their parents, relatives, and fellow religious. If only one chalice is used, it should be sufficiently large.*
10. *In addition to what is needed for Mass, there should also be ready:
 - 1) *the ritual for monastic profession;**

- 1 2) *the cuculla or other insignia of religious profession, if these are to be*
2 *presented in accordance with the rules or customs of the monastic*
3 *community.*
4

5 **INTRODUCTORY RITES**
6

- 7 11. *When the people and the monastic community are assembled and everything is ready,*
8 *the procession moves through the church to the altar in the usual way, while the choir*
9 *and people sing the entrance song of the Mass. Those to be professed may fittingly*
10 *join in the procession, accompanied by the junior master. When they come to the*
11 *sanctuary, all make the customary reverence to the altar and go to their places; then*
12 *Mass continues.*
13

14
15 **LITURGY OF THE WORD**
16

- 17 12. *The liturgy of the word takes place as usual, except for the following:*
18 *a. The readings may be taken from the Mass of the day or from the texts*
19 *proper to Masses of Religious Profession;*
20 *b. the profession of faith is not said, even if prescribed by the rubrics of the*
21 *day;*
22 *c. the general intercessions (prayer of the faithful) are also omitted.*
23

24 **MONASTIC PROFESSION**
25

26 **CALLING**
27

- 28 13. *After the gospel, the abbot receives the miter and intones the following which the*
29 *community joins him in singing: (see Appendix for musical settings)*
30

31 Come, my sons, hear me;
32 I will teach you the fear of the Lord.
33 Look to him that you may be radiant with joy,
34 and your faces may not blush with shame.
35

36 *The candidates for profession come forward and stand facing the Abbot during the singing.*
37

38 **ALTERNATIVE CALLING AND REQUEST**
39

- 40 14. *After the gospel, the celebrant and people sit, but those to be professed stand. Then,*
41 *according to choice or as circumstances demand, the deacon or the junior master*
42 *calls those to be professed by name.*
43

44 **Deacon or Junior Master:**

45 Would those to be admitted to solemn profession please come forward, N. and N.?

1
2 *They answer individually:*

3
4 Present.

5
6 15. *The abbot then questions them in these or similar words:*

7
8 **Abbot:**

9
10 My dear sons, what do you ask of God and of his holy Church?

11
12 *The candidates reply together in these or similar words:*

13
14 We ask for perseverance in God's service and in this monastic community all the days of our
15 lives.

16
17 **or**

18
19 The mercy of God and fellowship in this community.

20
21 **ALTERNATIVE TO THE CALLING AND REQUEST**

22
23 16. *The calling by name and the questioning may be omitted; a request by those to be*
24 *professed may take their place. For example, one of those to be professed may stand*
25 *facing the abbot and say, in the name of all, these or similar words:*

26
27 With the help of God,
28 we (N. and N.) have come to know the life
29 of religious dedication in your monastic community.
30 We now ask to be allowed to make solemn profession
31 in this community of N.
32 for the glory of God, the service of the Church, and the salvation of our souls.

33
34 *The abbot and all the members of the religious community reply:*

35
36 Thanks be to God.

37
38 *Or they express their approval in some other way.*

39
40 **HOMILY OR ADDRESS**

41
42 17. *Those to be professed then sit and listen to the homily or address which should*
43 *develop the scriptural readings and the theme of monastic profession as God's gift*
44 *and call for the sanctification of those chosen and for the good of the Church and the*
45 *whole human family. The homily ends with the abbot addressing the community in*

1 *these or similar words:*

2

3 After our deliberations,

4 I accept Brothers N. and N. for solemn profession in our community.

5

6 *The community may answer:*

7

8 We also accept them. Thanks be to God.

9

10 *Approval may be indicated by applause.*

11

12 **EXAMINATION OF THE CANDIDATES**

13

14 18. *After the homily or address, those to be professed stand, and the abbot sits and*
15 *receives the miter, if he did not wear this during the homily, questions them on their*
16 *readiness to dedicate themselves to God and to seek perfect charity, according to the*
17 *Holy Rule. The questions may be changed or in part omitted, to suit the spirit and*
18 *character of each abbey.*

19

20 *Those to be professed stand and the abbot questions them:*

21

22 **Abbot:**

23

24 My sons,

25 through baptism you have already died to sin and been consecrated to the Lord.

26 Are you resolved to unite yourself more closely to him by the bond of solemn profession?

27

28 **Candidates:**

29

30 I am resolved.

31

32 **Abbot:**

33

34 Are you resolved, with the help of God's grace,

35 to undertake that life of perfect chastity, obedience and poverty

36 which Christ our Lord and his Virgin Mother chose for themselves,

37 and to persevere in it for ever?

38

39 **Candidates:**

40

41 I am resolved.

42

43 **Abbot:**

44

45 Are you resolved to strive constantly for perfect love of God and of neighbor,

1 by zealously living the Gospel with all your heart,
2 and keeping the Rule of our Holy Father Benedict?
3

4 **Candidates:**

5
6 I am resolved.

7
8 **Abbot:**

9
10 Are you resolved, with the help of the Holy Spirit,
11 to spend your whole life in the generous service of Christ,
12 by serving your brothers in this community,
13 and all God's people, especially the poor and guests?
14

15 **Candidates:**

16
17 I am resolved.

18
19 **Abbot:**

20
21 Are you resolved to live for God alone
22 in common prayer and daily work,
23 in silence and community living,
24 in reflection on God's Word?
25

26 **Candidates:**

27
28 I am resolved.

29
30 **Abbot:**

31
32 May the Lord who has begun this good work in you
33 bring it to fulfillment before the day of Christ Jesus.
34

35 **Candidates:**

36
37 Amen.

38
39 **LITANY**

40
41 *19. All rise. The abbot stands, removes the miter, and with hands joined, and says, facing the*
42 *people.*
43

44 **Abbot:**

45

1 Let us pray to God in union with the whole Church
2 on behalf of N. and N. who have been called to follow Christ by a monastic manner of life.
3 May God be moved to strengthen them to persevere until death in their holy resolve.

4
5 *Unless the rite of solemn profession takes place during the Easter Season or on Sunday, the*
6 *deacon says:*

7
8 **Deacon:**

9
10 Let us kneel.

11
12 *The abbot kneels at his chair (except during the Easter Season or on Sundays). Those to be*
13 *professed prostrate themselves. The rest of the assembly kneels (except during the Easter Season*
14 *or on Sundays).*

15
16 20. *Then the cantors sing the litany for the rite of solemn profession, all making the*
17 *responses. In this litany one or the other of the petitions marked with the same letter may*
18 *be omitted. At the appropriate place there may be inserted invocations of saints*
19 *especially venerated in the monastic community or by the faithful; other petitions may be*
20 *added to suit the occasion.*

21		
22	Lord, have mercy	Lord, have mercy.
23	Christ, have mercy.	Christ, have mercy.
24	Lord, have mercy.	Lord, have mercy.
25	Holy Mary, Mother of God,	pray for us.
26	Saint Michael,	pray for us.
27	Holy angels of God,	pray for us.
28	Saint John the Baptist,	pray for us.
29	Saint Joseph,	pray for us.
30	Saint Peter and Saint Paul,	pray for us.
31	Saint John,	pray for us.
32	Saint Mary Magdalene,	pray for us.
33	Saint Stephen and Saint Lawrence,	pray for us.
34	Saint Agnes,	pray for us.
35	Saint Basil,	pray for us.
36	Saint Augustine,	pray for us.
37	Holy Father Benedict,	pray for us.
38	Saint Bernard,	pray for us.
39	Saint Francis and Saint Dominic	pray for us.
40	Saint Ignatius of Loyola,	pray for us.
41	Saint Vincent de Paul,	pray for us.
42	Saint John Bosco,	pray for us.
43	Saint Scholastica,	pray for us.
44	Saint Catherine of Siena,	pray for us.
45	Saint Teresa of Avila,	pray for us.

1	All holy men and women,	pray for us.
2	Lord, be merciful.	Lord, save your people.
3	From all evil,	Lord, save your people.
4	From every sin,	Lord, save your people.
5	From everlasting death,	Lord, save your people.
6	By your coming as man,	Lord, save your people.
7	By your death and rising to new life,	Lord, save your people.
8	By your gift of the Holy Spirit,	Lord, save your people.
9	Be merciful to us sinners.	Lord, hear our prayer.
10		
11	A. By the self-offering of your servants	
12	and their apostolic work,	
13	make the life of your Church	
14	ever more fruitful.	Lord, hear our prayer.
15		
16		
17		
18	A. Give in greater abundance	
19	the gifts of the Holy Spirit	
20	to your servant, Pope N.,	
21	and to all his brother bishops.	Lord, hear our prayer.
22		
23	B. By the life and labor of all religious	
24	promote the welfare of all mankind.	Lord, hear our prayer.
25		
26	B. Lead all people	
27	to the fulness of the Christian life.	Lord, hear our prayer.
28		
29	C. Grant that all religious communities	
30	may live and grow	
31	in the love of Christ	
32	and the spirit of their founders.	Lord, hear our prayer.
33		
34	C. Give to all who profess the evangelical counsels	
35	a fuller share in the work of redemption.	Lord, hear our prayer.
36		
37	D. Reward a hundredfold	
38	the parents of your servants	
39	for the sacrifices they have made.	Lord, hear our prayer.
40		
41	D. Make these servants of yours	
42	more and more like Christ,	
43	the firstborn of many brothers.	Lord, hear our prayer.
44		
45	E. Give these servants of yours	

1 the grace of perseverance. Lord, hear our prayer.
2
3 E. Bless these brothers of ours,
4 your servants, make them holy,
5 and consecrate them to your service. Lord, hear our prayer.
6
7 Jesus, Son of the living God, Lord, hear our prayer.
8 Christ, hear us. Christ, hear us.
9 Lord Jesus, hear our prayer. Lord Jesus, hear our prayer.
10
11 *Then the abbot alone rises and says, with hands joined:*
12
13 **Abbot:**
14
15 Lord,
16 grant the prayers of your people.
17 Prepare the hearts of your servants
18 for consecration to your service.
19 By the grace of the Holy Spirit
20 purify them from all sin
21 and set them on fire with your love.
22 We ask this through Christ our Lord.
23
24 *All respond:*
25
26 Amen.
27
28 *If the ceremony does not take place during the Easter Season or on Sundays, the deacon then*
29 *says:*
30
31 **Deacon:**
32
33 Let us stand.
34
35 **PROFESSION**
36
37 21. *After the litany, if it is the custom of the monastery, two solemnly professed monks come*
38 *to the chair of the abbot and, standing, act as witnesses. Those to be professed come, one*
39 *by one, to the abbot and read the formula of profession, which they themselves have*
40 *written out beforehand.*
41
42 In the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.
43 I, Brother N., of (city, state), Diocese of N.,
44 promise with solemn vows,
45 before God and his saints,

1 in the presence of our Father in Christ, Abbot N.,
2 and the monks of this monastery,
3 stability in this community,
4 conversion through a monastic way of life,
5 and obedience according to the *Rule*
6 of our Holy Father Benedict
7 and the law proper to our Congregation.
8 In witness whereof I have prepared this document
9 and signed it here at N. (abbey/priory)
10 in the year of our Lord _____,
11 on the _____ day of _____ (month),
12 the feast of _____.

14 22. *After reading the formula of profession, the newly-professed go to the altar and sign the
15 formula there in the presence of witnesses. Then the newly-professed themselves place
16 the formulas of profession in the center of the altar. After this, each one returns to his
17 place and remains standing.*

19 **SUSCIPE**

21 23. *All stand. The newly-professed stands in the sanctuary, and with arms extended, sings
22 the Suscipe, each time on a higher tone. After each singing of the Suscipe, the candidate
23 kneels and bows his head while all repeat the Suscipe. After the third singing of the
24 Suscipe by the congregation, the Glory be to the Father is added.*

26 *For text and music of the Suscipe, see Appendix.*

28 *While the assembly repeats the Suscipe the newly professed kneel.*

30 **COVERING WITH THE FUNERAL PALL** (optional)

32 24. *After the Suscipe, the newly professed prostrate and are covered with the funeral pall as
33 a sign of death to self.*

35 **SOLEMN BLESSING OR CONSECRATION OF THE PROFESSED**

37 25. *The newly professed remain kneeling (or prostrate if covered with the funeral pall). The
38 celebrant, with hands extended, says the following prayer of blessing. Two alternative
39 consecratory prayers are included in the Appendix.*

41 **Abbot:**

43 Father in heaven,
44 source of all holiness,
45 creator of the human race,

1 your love for us was so great
2 that you gave us a share in your own divine life.
3 Neither the sin of Adam
4 nor even the sins of the whole world could alter your loving purpose.
5 In the dawn of history
6 you gave us Abel as an example of holiness.
7 Later, from your beloved Hebrew people
8 you raised up men and women graced with every virtue.
9 Foremost among them all stands Mary,
10 the ever-virgin daughter of Zion.
11 From her pure womb was born Jesus Christ,
12 your eternal Word,
13 the Savior of the world.
14
15 You sent him, Father, as our pattern of holiness.
16 He became poor to make us rich,
17 a slave to set us free.
18 With love no words can tell,
19 he redeemed the world by his paschal mystery
20 and won from you the gifts of the Spirit
21 to sanctify his Church.
22
23 The voice of the Spirit has drawn
24 countless numbers of your children
25 to follow in the footsteps of your Son.
26 They leave all things
27 to be one with you in the bonds of love
28 and give themselves wholly to your service
29 and the service of all your people.
30
31 Look with favor, then,
32 on these who have heard your call.
33 Send them the Spirit of holiness;
34 help them to fulfill in faith
35 what you have enabled them to promise in joy.
36 Keep always before their eyes Christ, the divine teacher.
37 Give them perfect chastity,
38 ungrudging poverty
39 and wholehearted obedience.
40 May they glorify you by their humility,
41 serve you with docility,
42 and be one with you in fervent love.
43
44 May they build up the Church by the holiness of their lives,
45 advance the salvation of the world,

1 and stand as a sign of the blessings that are to come.

2

3 Lord, protect and guide these servants of yours.

4 At the judgment seat of your Son

5 be yourself their great reward.

6 Give them the joy of vows fulfilled.

7 Made perfect in your love,

8 may they rejoice in the communion of your saints

9 and praise you forever in their company.

10

11 We ask this through Christ our Lord.

12

13 **All respond:**

14

15 Amen.

16

17 26. *If the funeral pall was used,*

18

19 The deacon sings or says:

20

21 Arise, you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will enlighten you.

22

23 *If the newly professed were covered with the funeral pall, the pall is removed at this point.*

24

25 **PRESENTATION OF THE CUCULLA OR OTHER INSIGNIA OF PROFESSION**

26

27 27. *After the blessing of the professed, if it is the custom of the religious community to*
28 *present insignia of religious profession, the newly professed rise and come before the*
29 *Abbot, who presents the insignia to each in silence or with a suitable formula.*

30

31 *If the cucullas have not already been blessed, they may be blessed at this point with the*
32 *following formula before being presented.*

33

34 **Abbot:**

35 O God, Creator of all things, and Source of every blessing,

36 we your servants implore you to bless + these sacred garments

37 which will be worn as symbols of solemn profession and monastic consecration.

38

39 May these cucullas always remind those who wear them

40 of the yoke of the Holy Rule which they have freely taken upon themselves

41 and may they faithfully carry that yoke

42 until that day when you choose to call them to the glory of your heavenly kingdom.

43

44 May the wearing of these garments assist those who wear them

45 to cultivate in their hearts the values which the habit outwardly signifies:

1 renunciation of the world, humility, simplicity, poverty,
2 purity of heart, joy, peace and holiness of life.

3
4 May they, your servants, who seek and serve you here on earth,
5 one day enjoy the fellowship of your holy angels,
6 together with our Holy Father Benedict
7 and all the Saints who have worn this holy habit before them.

8
9 This we ask of you through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
10 who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

11
12 **All respond:**

13
14 Amen.

15
16 28. *While the cucullas or other insignia are presented, the choir and the people together sing*
17 *the antiphon:*

18
19 How happy, Lord, are those who dwell in your house, forever singing your praise.

20
21 *with Psalm 83; or some other appropriate song may be sung. The antiphon is repeated*
22 *after every two verses; at the end of the psalm Glory be to the Father is not said but only*
23 *the antiphon. If the presentation of the insignia comes to an end before the whole psalm*
24 *is sung, the psalm is interrupted and the antiphon repeated.*

25
26 **OPTION: ADMISSION TO MEMBERSHIP IN THE MONASTIC CHAPTER**

27 (partially from *American-Cassinense Rite of Religious Profession* 1975 and partially from the
28 *Monastic Ritual of the English Benedictine Congregation* 1989 “ad experimentum”)

29
30 29. *The abbot then receives the miter and crozier, and addresses the newly-professed monks.*

31
32 We confirm that you are now one with us
33 sharing all things in common
34 now and in the future
35 as members of this monastic community of N.
36 and members of our monastic chapter.

37
38 **The capitulars reply:**

39
40 Amen.

41
42 **KISS OF PEACE**

43
44 30. *The abbot gives up the crozier and he and the solemnly and perpetually professed*
45 *members of the community give the kiss of peace to the newly professed in the usual way*

1 *or according to the custom of the place. Meanwhile, the choir and the people sing the*
2 *antiphon:*

3
4 See how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell in unity.

5
6 *with Psalm 132; or some other appropriate song may be sung.*

7
8 *During the kiss of peace, the abbot and capitulars may use the following greeting and*
9 *response (from the American-Cassinese Rituale Monasticum 1942):*

10
11 **Abbot and capitulars:**

12
13 May the Lord strengthen you in your resolution.

14
15 **The newly professed responds:**

16
17 Pray for me.

18
19 *31. The newly professed religious return after this to their places. The Mass continues.*

20
21 **LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

22
23 *32. During the offertory song, some of the newly professed may bring to the altar the bread,*
24 *wine, and water for the eucharistic sacrifice.*

25
26 *33. In the Eucharistic prayers, the offering of the professed may be mentioned according to*
27 *the texts below:*

28
29 *a) In Eucharistic Prayer I, the special form of Father, accept this offering is said:*

30
31 Father accept and sanctify this offering
32 from your whole family and from these your servants
33 which we make to you on the day of their profession.
34 By your grace they have dedicated their lives to you today.
35 When your Son returns in glory,
36 may they share the joy of the unending paschal feast
37 (Through Christ our Lord. Amen).

38
39 *b) In the intercessions of Eucharistic Prayer II, after the words and all the clergy, there is added:*

40
41 Lord, remember also these our brothers
42 who have today dedicated themselves to serve you always.
43 Grant that they may always raise
44 their minds and hearts to you
45 and glorify your name.

1
2 *c) In the intercessions of Eucharistic Prayer III, after the words your Son has gained for you,*
3 *there is added:*

4
5 Strengthen also these your servants in their holy purpose,
6 for they have dedicated themselves
7 by the bonds of religious consecration to serve you always.
8 Grant that they may give witness in your church
9 to the new and eternal life won by Christ's redemption.

10
11 *d) In the intercessions of Eucharistic Prayer IV, the professed may be mentioned in this way:*

12
13 . . . bishop, and bishops and clergy everywhere.
14 Remember these our brothers,
15 who unite themselves more closely to you today
16 by their perpetual profession.
17 Remember those who take part in this offering

18
19
20 34. *After the abbot has received the body and blood of Christ, the newly professed religious*
21 *come to the altar to receive communion which may be given to them under both kinds.*
22 *Then their parents, relatives, and fellow religious may receive communion in the same*
23 *way.*

24
25 **OPTION: BLESSING OF THE NEWLY PROFESSED**

26
27 35. *When the prayer after communion has been said, the newly consecrated religious stand*
28 *before the altar, and the abbot, facing them, may say:*

29
30 **Abbot:**
31
32 God inspires all holy desires and brings them to fulfillment.
33 May he protect you always by his grace
34 so that you may fulfill the duties of your vocation
35 with a faithful heart.

36
37 **The newly professed respond:**

38
39 Amen.

40
41 **Abbot:**
42
43 May he make each of you a witness
44 and sign of his love for all people.

45

1 **The newly professed respond:**

2

3 Amen.

4

5 **Abbot:**

6

7 May he make those bonds
8 with which he has bound you to Christ on earth
9 endure for ever in heavenly love.

10

11 **The newly professed respond:**

12

13 Amen.

14

15 *36. Finally, the abbot blesses the whole congregation:*

16

17 May almighty God,
18 the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit,
19 bless all of you have taken part in this celebration.

20

21 **All respond:**

22

23 Amen.

24

RITE OF RECEPTION INTO PERIOD OF PROBATION

1. *The Rite may be used in the instances for which the Constitutions and Directory prescribe a period of probation, e.g., for those seeking to re-enter the monastery, or for those transferring to the monastery. It takes place in the oratory during the celebration of Vespers. The Abbot should preside at the celebration.*
2. *The rite should begin after the reading from scripture.*

READING FROM SCRIPTURE

3. *An appropriate passage from the Word of God is read; e.g., Proverbs 3:1-8, 11-18, or the proper reading of the day.*

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATE

4. *The Vocation Director or Postulant Director presents the candidate to the Abbot and Community.*

Vocation Director/Postulant Director

Let the one who seeks readmission [or: to transfer] to our way of life please come forward: N.

5. *The Vocation Director leads those to be received into the sanctuary where they stand facing the Abbot.*

Abbot N., N. has asked to be readmitted to [or: to transfer to] our community as we seek God through the monastic way of life.

QUESTION TO CANDIDATE FROM ABBOT

6. *The abbot gives a brief address and then questions the candidate.*

Abbot: What is it you seek?

7. *The candidate responds with the following or similar words:*

Candidate

The mercy of God and fellowship in this community

1 **OR**

2

3 The mercy of God and readmission to this community.

4

5 **EXHORTATION AND EXAMINATION**

6

7 8. *The Abbot responds with an exhortation and examination.*

8

9 **Abbot**

10

11 My dear brother in Christ, we recognize your desire to undertake once again our way of life, and
12 we welcome you once again into our midst. But as the Apostle says: “Test the spirits to see
13 whether they are from God.” For this reason we cannot grant you an immediate profession of our
14 monastic vows. We must first determine whether you truly seek God, and are zealous for the
15 work of God, for obedience and the practice of humility. [Once again,] you must come to know
16 all the trials and hardships through which we travel to God.

17 And so I ask you, are you willing to live in our community and to seek God through our monastic
18 way of life?

19

20 **Candidate**

21

22 I am.

23

24 **Abbot**

25

26 May the Lord bring to perfection the good he has begun in you.

27

28 **All respond:**

29

30 Amen.

31

32 **ACCEPTANCE BY THE COMMUNITY**

33

34 9. *The abbot then inquires of the community if it is willing to accept the candidate into the*
35 *community.*

36

37 **Abbot:**

38

39 My brothers, are you willing to admit [or: readmit] this man into our community for a period of
40 probation and discernment?

41

42 **Community:**

43

44 We are. Thanks be to God!

45 **Abbot:**

1
2 Having heard the consent of our community, I accept you into the monastery for a period of trial
3 and discernment.

4

5 **PRAYER**

6

7 **Abbot**

8

9 God, it is you who give us our vocation. Hear our prayers and bless this brother who wishes to
10 return to our monastic way of life. Help him to know your holy will, and strengthen us all in
11 your service. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

12

13 **All Respond:**

14

15 Amen.

16

17 **OR**

18

19 Almighty God, through the Spirit of your Son in the Church, you call men to seek and find you.
20 Hear the prayers of your son, N. , as he asks to join our community. Grant that our life together
21 may bring us to prefer nothing to the love of your Son, Christ our Lord.

22

23 **All Respond:**

24

25 Amen.

26

27 **INVESTITURE**

28

29 *10. According to the custom of the community, the candidate for readmission goes to the*
30 *Abbot and kneels to receive the monastic habit, assisted by the Formation Director and*
31 *Prior.* The investiture may be done in silence, or with one of the formulae provided in*
32 *the Appendix.*

33

34 **According to the Constitutions and Directory, those transferring to one of our*
35 *monasteries receive the habit only at the end of a year of probation or novitiate. See D.*
36 *89.1; 90.1.*

37

38 **GIVING OF MONASTIC NAME**

39

40 **Abbot**

41

42 So that you may be reminded daily that you have taken on a new way of life, I give you the
43 following saint's name by which you shall be called. May you always be conscious of the virtues
44 of this saint, may he lead you to the day of your profession and guide you to your heavenly goal.
45 N., you shall be known as Brother N.

1
2
3
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40
41
42
43
44
45

OPTIONAL: KISS OF PEACE

11. If the Kiss of Peace is given only by the Abbot to the candidate, it is given at this time.

Abbot:

May the Lord strengthen you in your resolution.

Candidate:

Pray for me.

12. The candidate takes his proper place in the choir.

GOSPEL CANTICLE

13. The Benedictus/Magnificat is sung as usual.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

14. Intercessions proper to the occasion or a litany should be included, with appropriate modifications, depending on whether this is a readmission or a transfer. The following litany may be used:

Abbot

Let us pray for our new brother(s) and for our community as we say: Lord, hear our prayer.

- Lord, help them become true seekers of God. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- Establish us all more firmly in the way that leads to you. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- Lord, make them zealous for the work of God. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- Renew in us our love for prayer. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- Increase our readiness to do your will. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- Lord, lead them in the labor of obedience. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- Lord, show them humility and truth. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- Strengthen us to honor and serve one another. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- Lord, sustain them in love. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- Increase our good zeal for the love of the community. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- Lord, give them perseverance in the school of your service. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- Renew a steadfast spirit within us. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- Lord, bring us all with our deceased confreres together to life everlasting. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

And now let us pray as Christ taught us: *Our Father...*

COLLECT

1
2 15. *One of the following prayers or another appropriate prayer may be used:*

3
4 **Abbot**

5
6 Keep us, Lord, in that joy, simplicity and kind regard for others taught us by the Gospel and the
7 life and Rule of our Holy Father Benedict. Bless Br. N. who wishes to share our way of life.
8 Help him to know your holy will, and strengthen us all in your service. May we come to that
9 love which casts out fear. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

10
11 **OR**

12
13 Loving and merciful Father, through the humility of your Son you show us the way to return to
14 you. Look upon this, your servant, who wishes to follow Christ to glory. Open his eyes to your
15 divinizing light, and his ears to the voice of your Holy Spirit. We ask this through Christ our
16 Lord.

17
18 **OR**

19
20 O God, you have willed that your Son would embrace our humanity so that humanity might be
21 lifted up to you. Bless + this your son who desires to follow you in the monastic way of life.
22 Give him strength and perseverance that he may become your worthy and humble servant. We
23 ask this through Christ our Lord.

24
25 **OR**

26
27 Keep us, Lord, in that joy, simplicity and kind regard for others taught us by the Gospel and the
28 life and Rule of our Holy Father Benedict; bless this candidate who wishes to enter into our way
29 of life. Help him to know your holy will, and strengthen us all in your service; may we come to
30 that love which casts out fear. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

31
32 **All Respond:**

33 Amen.

34
35 **FINAL BLESSING**

36 **Abbot**

37 May the Lord, with his word of blessing, unite our hearts in the bond of brotherhood. And may
38 almighty God bless you, + the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

39
40 **All Respond:**

41 Amen.

42

1 **Ritual of Welcome at the Time of Transfer**

2
3 *After the period of probation is concluded, and the decree of a transfer of stability has been*
4 *issued (D88.2.4; D 88.4.6.1), a ritual of welcome may be celebrated either in Chapter or as part*
5 *of the Liturgy of the Hours.*

6
7 *Following a reading from Scripture, the abbot may give a short reflection, after which he calls*
8 *the newly transferred confrere to come forward to receive a blessing. If the ritual is celebrated*
9 *as part of the Liturgy of the Hours, the Gospel Canticle and conclusion of the office follow this*
10 *ceremony of welcome.*

11
12 **Abbot:**

13
14 Let us pray.

15
16 God our Father,
17 We thank you for your servant (N.)_____,
18 whose progress in the monastic life and faith
19 has brought him into our fellowship.

20
21 Bless + him as we welcome him as a brother
22 into full membership in our community.
23 Bring your life and love to perfection within him,
24 and help him strengthen the bonds of peace.

25
26 We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
27 who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
28 one God, forever and ever,

29
30 **All:**

31
32 Amen.

33
34 **Sign of Peace**

35
36 *The abbot and community then exchange the sign of peace with the newly transferred confrere.*
37
38
39
40
41

1
2 **RITE FOR RENEWAL OF VOWS DURING MASS**
3

- 4 1. *Renewal of vows, which is governed by the general law of the church or by a particular*
5 *ruling of the constitutions, may take place during Mass if the religious community thinks*
6 *it appropriate.*
7
8 2. *The rite for the renewal of vows should be conducted with the greatest simplicity,*
9 *especially if, in accordance with the constitutions of the religious institute, vows are*
10 *renewed frequently or annually.*
11
12 3. *Either the Mass corresponding to the liturgy of the day or the ritual Mass for the day of*
13 *the renewal of vows is used, in accordance with the rubrics (see Introducton, no. 9).*
14
15 4. *In clerical institutes it is proper for the superior who receives the renewal of vows to*
16 *preside over the eucharistic sacrifice. In lay institutes a chair should be prepared in a*
17 *convenient part of the sanctuary for the superior who is to receive the profession of his*
18 *fellow religious.*
19
20 5. *Religious who renew their profession may receive communion under both kinds. If only*
21 *one chalice is used, it should be sufficiently large.*
22

23 **LITURGY OF THE WORD**
24

- 25 6. *In the liturgy of the word, all takes place as usual except for the following:*
26 *a) the readings may be taken from the Mass of the day or from the texts for*
27 *Masses of Religious Profession;*
28 *b) the profession of faith is not said, even if prescribed by the rubrics of the*
29 *day.*
30
31 7. *After the gospel a homily is given which uses the readings from scripture to emphasize*
32 *the meaning and the value of religious life.*
33
34

35 **COMMUNAL RENEWAL OF VOWS AT THE CONCLUSION OF RETREAT**
36

37 **PRAYER FOR GOD'S GRACE**
38

- 39 8. *After the homily the celebrant prays for God's help, saying:*
40

41 God our Father gives us the grace to persevere in our resolutions.
42 Let us pray to him in preparation for the renewal of our vows.
43

44 *All pray for a time in silence. Then the celebrant says:*

1
2 Lord,
3 in your providence
4 you have called these servants of yours
5 to be perfect as the Gospel teaches.
6 In your mercy grant that they may persevere to the end
7 along the way of your love
8 on which they have set out with such joy.

9
10 We ask this through Christ our Lord.

11
12 **All respond:**

13
14 Amen.

15
16 **RENEWAL OF PROFESSION**

17
18 9. *All recite together, standing, facing the altar:*

19
20 I, Father (Brother) N.,
21 Renew my profession
22 and I promise stability in this community,
23 conversion through a monastic way of life,
24 and obedience according to the Rule of our holy father Benedict.

25
26 **SUSCIPE**

27
28 10. *Where customary, the Suscipe may be sung once by the whole community, concluding*
29 *with the Glory be to the Father.*

30
31 **CONCLUSION OF RITE OF RENEWAL OF VOWS**

32
33 11. *The rite fittingly concludes with the recitation of the general intercessions.*

34
35 **LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

36
37 12. *During the offertory song some of the religious who have renewed their vows may bring*
38 *the bread, wine, and water to the altar for the eucharistic sacrifice.*

39
40 13. *The celebrant gives to each of the religious who have renewed their vows the sign of*
41 *peace in the usual way or in accordance with the custom of the place or of the religious*
42 *community. If there are many, he gives the sign of peace to the first, who gives it to the*
43 *rest.*

44
45 14. *During the Eucharistic prayer, the proper inserts designated for the Mass of Religious*

1 *Profession may be used; see Chapter 4, paragraph 33.*
2
3

4 **JUBILEE OF MONASTIC PROFESSION DURING CONVENTUAL MASS**
5

6 **RITE OF RENEWAL OF VOWS**
7

8 15. *After the silence which follows the homily, the Abbot begins the Rite for the Renewal of*
9 *Vows.*

10
11 **PRAYER FOR GOD’S GRACE**
12

13 16. *The abbot begins by inviting those present to pray for God’s blessing.*
14

15 **Abbot:**
16

17 My brothers:
18 it is God our Father who gives us the grace of persevering in our holy resolutions.
19 Let us pray to him for his servants,
20 Father N. / Brother N.
21 who are resolved to renew their vows today in the presence of the Church.
22

23 *Pause for silent prayer*
24

25 Lord,
26 look upon your servants whom you have called
27 in the hidden wisdom of your Providence
28 to the perfection of the Gospel-life.
29 Mercifully grant them the strength to persevere to the end
30 along the way of your love,
31 on which they set out with such joy.
32

33 We ask this through Christ our Lord.
34

35 **All:**
36

37 Amen.
38

39 **OR**
40

41 **Abbot:**
42

43 Today we rejoice in the faithful living of the monastic life
44 for [25, 50, 60] years by our brother, Father N.

1 Let us now pray that God pour out his abundant blessing
2 on this good and faithfull servant.

3

4 *Pause for silent prayer.*

5

6 *The abbot, with hands extended over the jubilarian, prays:*

7

8 All gracious and loving God,
9 in whom we live and move and have our being,
10 we praise and thank you for giving our brother, N.,
11 [25, 50, 60] years of faithful service in this community.
12 Sustained by the example of many brothers,
13 and by the help of your grace,
14 may he continue in the path that he has chosen.

15

16 And so we ask you to bless your servant, N.,
17 As he goes forth in this life of conversion and of faith.
18 May he run along the path of your commandments
19 with an expanded heart and with unspeakable sweetness of love.
20 May he never depart from your guidance,
21 but persevere in your teaching in this community until death.
22 May he, by patience, share in the sufferings of Christ,
23 so as to be a partaker of the kingdom of your beloved Son,
24 Jesus Christ, who is Lord for ever and ever.

25

26 **All:**

27

28 Amen.

29

30 **RENEWAL OF PROFESSION**

31

32 *17. Each jubilarian comes forward to renew his vows, according to the custom of the*
33 *community. The following or a similar text may be used.*

34

35 In the Name + of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.
36 The profession of vows
37 which I, Father / Brother N.,
38 of the Diocese of _____,
39 made [25, 50, 60] years ago,
40 to the honor of Almighty God,
41 of the ever Blessed Virgin Mary,
42 and of our holy Father Benedict,
43 I do now, with the assistance of divine mercy, renew;
44 and I promise stability,
45 conversion according to a monastic manner of life,

1 and obedience according to the Rule of our holy Father Benedict,
2 and the law proper to our Congregation,
3 in the presence of God,
4 and of his Saints whose relics are in this church,
5 and in the presence of our father in Christ,
6 N., Abbot of this monastery,
7 and of the monks here assembled:
8 in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, + and of the Holy Spirit.
9 Amen.

10

11 18. *According to community custom, the Suscipe may be sung here once by the whole*
12 *community, concluding with the Glory be to the Father.*

13

14 **INTERCESSIONS**

15

16 19. **Abbot:**

17

18 Let us pray to God,
19 realizing that what we ask for in faith
20 with one mind and heart
21 will be given to us.

22

23 *The prior or another assistant announces that “The response to the petitions is ‘amen’” and*
24 *reads the petitions.*

25

26 **Prior:**

27

28 May they live by faith. *Amen.*
29 May they take up their cross daily. *Amen.*
30 May they be hearers and doers of the Word. *Amen.*
31 May they be steadfast in trials. *Amen.*
32 May they walk in newness of life. *Amen.*
33 May they show forgiveness when wronged. *Amen.*
34 May they be untiring in prayer. *Amen.*
35 May they give their obedience from the heart. *Amen.*
36 May they bear fruit in charity. *Amen.*
37 May they be patient and merciful. *Amen.*
38 May they be filled with wisdom and understanding. *Amen.*
39 May they always be humble and gentle. *Amen.*
40 May they be ever mindful that on the last day, you will be their life. *Amen.*
41 May they be firmly grounded in peace. *Amen.*

42

43 **Abbot:**

44

45 Almighty and everlasting God,

1 your precepts are the wisdom of a loving Father.
2 Accept the gift of total oblation
3 being renewed this day by our Jubilarians.
4 And give us all the grace,
5 following the teaching and example of our holy Father Benedict,
6 to walk with loving and willing hearts
7 in the school of the Lord's service.
8 Let your ears be attentive to our prayers,
9 and prosper with your blessing the work of our hands.

10
11 We ask this through Christ our Lord.

12
13 **All:**

14
15 Amen.

16
17 **PRESENTATION OF THE STAFF**

18
19 20. *Where customary, golden jubilarians come forward for the presentation of the staff,*
20 *traditionally known as the baculus senectutis, which the Abbot gives, saying:*

21
22 **Abbot:**

23
24 Receive this staff as a symbol of your seniority in our community,
25 as a sign of your perseverance,
26 and as a token of the support which we your brothers pledge to you.
27 May you share with us always the wisdom and joy
28 that come from fidelity to the Spirit in the Holy Church.

29
30 *A prayer for blessing the staff and another text to be used in conferring it can be found in*
31 *the Appendix.*

32
33 **KISS OF PEACE**

34
35 21. *The Kiss of Peace is then given to the Jubilarian(s) by the abbot and members of the*
36 *community.*

37
38 22. *The Profession of Faith and General Intercessions are omitted, and Mass continues with*
39 *the Liturgy of the Eucharist, (see paragraphs 12, 13 & 14).*

40

ALTERNATE CONSECRATORY PRAYERS FOR SOLEMN PROFESSION

1.
The first alternative text is from the Roman Rite of Religious Profession (1970). The second alternative is from the Ritual of the Swiss American Congregation (1984).

Alternative Consecratory Prayer from the Roman Rite of Religious Profession

Abbot:

Lord God,
source of holiness and growth in your Church,
all creation owes you its debt of praise.
In the beginning of time
you created the world to share your joy.
When it lay broken by Adam's sin,
you promised a new heaven and a new earth.
You entrusted the earth to man's care,
to be made fruitful by his work.
Living in this world
men were to direct their steps to the heavenly city.
By your sacraments
you make us your children
and welcome us into your Church;
you distribute among us
the many gifts of your Spirit.
Some serve you in chaste marriage;
others forego marriage for the sake of your kingdom.
Sharing all things in common,
with one heart and mind in the bond of love,
they become a sign of the communion of heaven.

Father, we pray now,
send your Spirit upon these servants of yours
who have committed themselves
with steadfast faith
to the words of Christ your Son.
Strengthen their understanding
and direct their lives by the teaching of the Gospel.
May the law of love rule in their hearts,
and concern for others distinguish their lives,
so that they may bear witness to you, the one true God,
and to your infinite love for all mankind.
By their courage in daily trials

1 may they receive, even in this life,
2 your promised hundredfold,
3 and at the end an everlasting reward in heaven.

4
5 We ask this through Christ our Lord.

6
7 **Amen.**

8
9 *Alternative Consecratory Prayer from the Ritual of the Swiss American Congregation*

10
11 **Abbot:**

12
13 It is indeed right to give you thanks and praise,
14 almighty and eternal God,
15 for you created man in your very own image
16 and placed all things under his feet.
17 Though he transgressed your command,
18 you chose a people from his scattered descendants
19 and promised them a blessing.

20
21 From among their ranks you raised up Moses;
22 the humblest of men you made their strength.
23 In luminous darkness you showed him your glory
24 and, face to face, gave him your law.

25
26 When fidelity to your precepts had turned to rebellion,
27 you kindled your zeal in the prophet Elijah
28 and at his word brought fire on earth.
29 You worked wonders through his obedience
30 and in whirlwind and flame carried him to heaven.

31
32 To prepare a people fit for you,
33 you commanded a voice to cry in the desert
34 and proclaim a baptism for forgiveness of sins.
35 Finally you sent your Son to assume our flesh.
36 He bore our sins in his own body on the cross
37 that we might die to our sins and live for holiness.
38 Now that you have raised him up,
39 you send him to bless all who turn from their wicked ways.

40
41 We implore you, then,
42 to look with favor on these servants
43 who prostrate before your altar and call upon your name.
44 Receive the prayer and offering which they make today
45 with repentance and tears.

1
2 By your glorious power
3 cleanse them of sin and fill them with your Spirit.
4 Strengthen them against temptation
5 that they may persevere in your service.
6 Make them watchful in prayer and mindful of your word.
7 Increase their knowledge of your will
8 through perfect wisdom and spiritual insight.
9 Clothe them with compassion;
10 with kindness and humility, gentleness and patience.
11 Deepen their love for their brothers
12 and for the whole human race.
13 Confirm their hearts in holiness
14 that they may stand before you pure and blameless
15 at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.
16
17 On that day
18 grant them fellowship with that great cloud of witnesses
19 who threw off every encumbrance
20 to gain what had been promised.
21 Then, on Mount Zion, in the heavenly Jerusalem,
22 where millions of angels have assembled for the feast,
23 may they be gathered together with the entire Church
24 to glorify your holy name.
25
26 Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
27 who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
28 God, forever and ever.
29
30 **Amen.**

31
32

33 TEXTS TO BE USED DURING INVESTITURE WITH THE MONASTIC HABIT

34

35 2. *Since there is some variation in the monasteries of the congregation regarding which*
36 *parts of the monastic habit are given at entrance to the novitiate or at the time of*
37 *temporary profession, the following prayer texts are provided and may be adapted to fit*
38 *the customs of each community.*

39

40 *The abbot, while removing the coat of the candidate:*

41

42 May the Lord strip you of the old man and all his deeds.

43

44 *The abbot, putting the tunic on the candidate:*

45

1 May the Lord clothe you with the new man, who was created according to God, in justice and
2 holiness of truth.

3
4 *The abbot, putting the cincture on the candidate:*

5
6 May the Lord grant you perfect chastity;

7
8 *The abbot, putting the scapular on the candidate:*

9
10 And wholehearted obedience.

11
12 **OR**

13
14 *The abbot, when vesting him with the cincture, says:*

15
16 Gird yourself with faith and good works. May the Gospel always be your guide.

17
18 *The abbot, when vesting him with the scapular, says:*

19
20 Receive the yoke of Our Lord Jesus Christ and bear his burden, for his yoke is easy and his
21 burden light.

22
23 *The abbot, when vesting him with the hood, says:*

24
25 Christ became poor to enrich us out of his poverty. May you follow him, poor, chaste, and
26 obedient.

27
28 **OR**

29
30 *When the abbot vests the monk in the habit, he says:*

31
32 May the Lord strip you of the old man and his way of life, and clothe you with the new man,
33 created in his image, made just and holy by truth. (*Swiss American Ritual*)

34

1
2 PRAYER OF BLESSING FOR THE STAFF PRESENTED TO
3 GOLDEN JUBILARIANS
4

5 3. *Assisting ministers stand before the abbot with the baculus and holy water. The abbot*
6 *prays:*
7

8 Lord our God, Father all-holy,
9 you will the cross of your beloved Son
10 to be the fountain of all blessing,
11 the source of all grace.
12

13 In your loving kindness bless + this staff,
14 which bears the sign of the cross.
15 May the one who carries it,
16 remembering the mystery of Christ's passion and death,
17 be filled with every spiritual blessing,
18 and one day enter the joy of his risen life,
19 who is Lord for ever and ever.
20

21 **All:**

22
23 Amen.
24

25 *The abbot then hands the baculus to the jubilarian and says:*
26

27 N. receive this staff, which represents the cross of Christ.
28 Use it not so much as a support for bodily strength,
29 but rather to obtain spiritual fortitude from our Savior, Jesus Christ,
30 who has called us all to himself in the gospel, saying:
31 Come to me all you who labor and are burdened,
32 and I will refresh you,
33 for my yoke is easy, my burden is light.
34

Musical Settings

The following musical settings are currently in use in our congregation:

“Come, My Son(s)”

A

Saint Bede Abbey



Abbot Come, my son, lis - ten - to me. Monks I will teach you the
fear of the Lord. Look to him, that you may be ra - dant with
joy and your face may not blush with shame. Come, my
son, lis - ten to me. I will teach you the fear of the Lord.

B

Saint Anselm Abbey



Abbot: Come, chil - dren, hear me. All: I will teach you the fear of the
[my son(s)]
Lord. Look to him that you may be ra - dant with
joy and your fa - ce(s) may not blush with shame.

1
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25

SUSCIPE

Throughout the congregation, there is currently some variety in the English translation of the Suscipe. Our 1975 Ritual suggests the following:

**Uphold me, Lord, according to your promise and I shall live;
And do not bring to nothing all my hope.**

Yet, this translation is not used in any of our monasteries. Currently, the most commonly used translation is:

**Uphold me, Lord, according to your promise and I shall live;
Let my hope in you not be in vain.**

Other versions translate the word suscipe as "sustain" or "support." The committee suggests the following translation as an alternative:

**Receive me, O Lord, as you have promised, that I may live;
And disappoint me not in my hope.**

The following musical settings may be adapted as appropriate.

American Cassinese Congregation 1974

A

Uphold me, Lord, according to your promise and I shall live;

Let my hope in you not be in vain

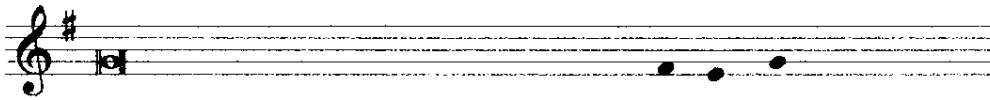
Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit

as in the beginning, so now and forever. A - men.

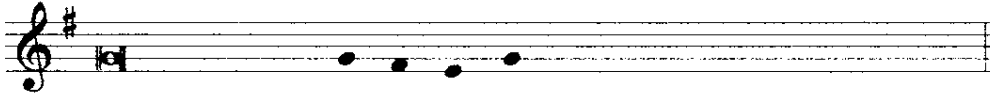
26

B

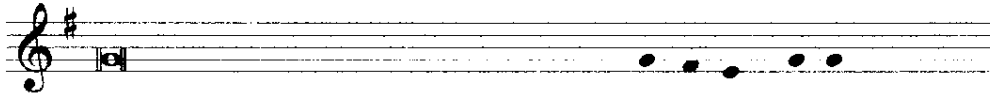
Rituale Monasticum 1942



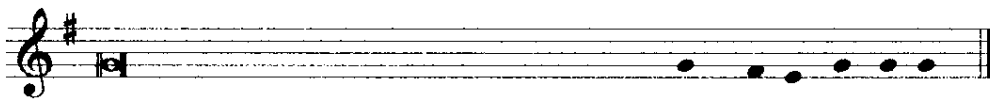
Sustain me, O Lord, as you have promised that I may live



and disappoint me not in my hope.



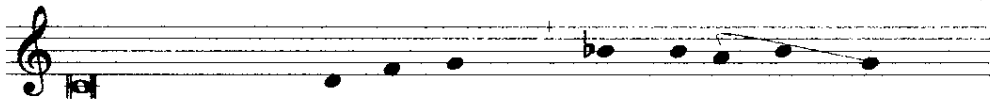
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Spir-it



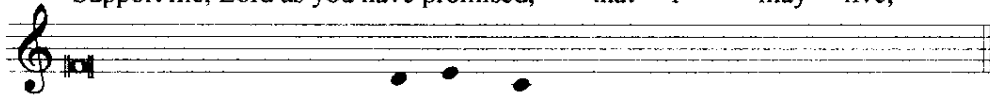
as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end Amen.

C

St. Bede Abbey



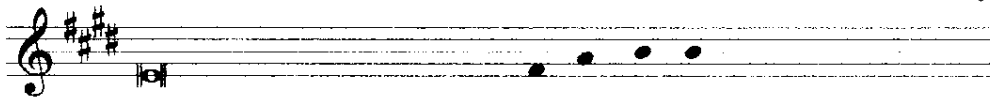
Support me, Lord as you have promised, that I may live,



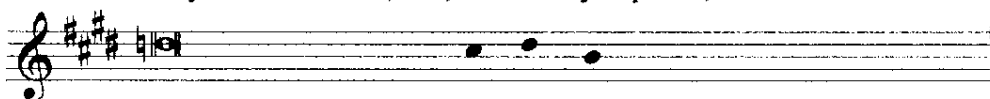
and do not disappoint me in my hope.

After the third repetition:

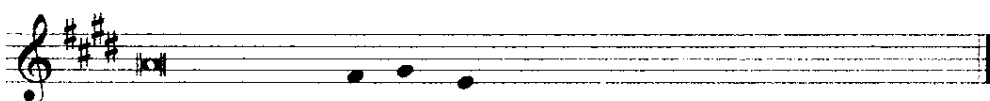
St. Bede Abbey



Glory be to the Father, Son, and Ho-ly Spir-it,



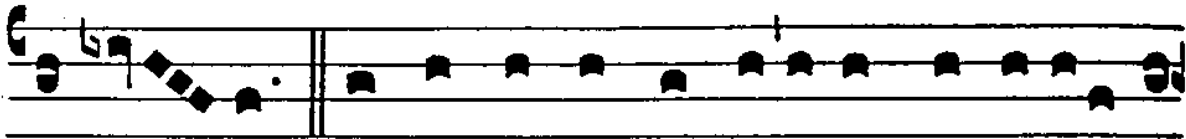
As it was, is now, and ev-er shall be,



world without end. A-men.

Ton. VI.

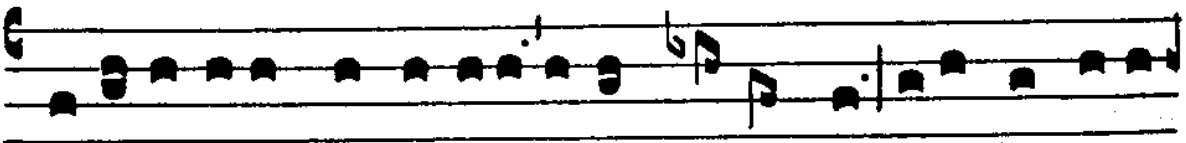
Sus-ci-pe me, Do-mi-ne, se-cun-dum e-lo-qui-um tu-um,



et vi - vam. Et non con-fun-das me ab ex-spec-ta-ti-o-ne



me- a. Glo-ri-a Pa-tri, et Fi - li-o, et Spi-ri-tu-i Sancto. *



Sic-ut e-rat in prin-ci-pi-o, et nunc, et sem-per, et in sae-cu-la



sae-cu-lo-rum. A- men.