

Rite of Investiture
with the Half Habit for the Year of Test¹
during the Eucharistic Celebration

¹ ITALIAN BISHOPS' CONFERENCE, *Benedizionale*, Roma, ed. LEV, 1992 / NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS, *Shorter Book of Blessings*, New York, 1990 [adapted to the conferral of the half habit of the *Little Friars and Little Nuns of Jesus and Mary*]

Rite of Investiture with the Half Habit within the Eucharistic Celebration

ENTRANCE RITE

The entrance song is sung and the procession takes place, as usual, through the church. It is also advisable that the candidate for investiture be accompanied by the formator and superiors. Once in the sanctuary and having revered the altar, everyone takes their assigned place and the Mass continues as usual.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The readings can be chosen from the Mass of the day or the texts of the Lectionary for religious profession. The Creed is optional. The prayers of the faithful are after the investiture.

REQUEST OF ADMISSION – AFTER THE READING OF THE GOSPEL AND BEFORE THE HOMILY

After the Proclamation of the Gospel, all sit while the candidate remains standing. The Superior of the community says the following words or others that are similar:

S Dear brother, what do you ask of God
and of the religious community
of the "*Little Friars and Little Nuns of Jesus and Mary*"?

The candidate reads from the ambo the **REQUEST OF ADMISSION**, or responds by saying:

- **I, Brother (Name),**
wanting to follow God's plan for me,
humbly ask to be admitted into the Year of Test
with you "*Little Friars and Little Nuns of Jesus and Mary.*"

The superior answers:

S **Brother (NAME),**
in the name of the community I welcome your request
to be admitted into the Postulancy
of the "*Little Friars and Little Nuns of Jesus and Mary.*"

R. Amen

SIGNATURE OF THE CANDIDATE AND OF THE SUPERIOR WHO RECEIVES THE REQUEST

After the superior's answer, the candidate signs the request of admission (NOT on the altar), which is cosigned by the competent Superior.

HOMILY

PRAYER FOR THE BLESSING OF THE HALF HABIT – BEFORE THE OFFERTORY
With hands outstretched, the celebrant pronounces the prayer of blessing:

C Oh God, the author and perfecter of all holiness,
you call all who are reborn of water and the Holy Spirit
to the fullness of life in Christ
and to the perfection of charity;

Bless this half habit

In the Name of the Father and the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

Help him who wears it with devotion
to become a sharer in the image of Christ your Son,
and, after he has fulfilled his mission on earth
with the help of the Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel,
Saint Francis of Assisi, Saint Padre Pio of Pietrelcina,
Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, and Saint Maximilian Maria Kolbe,
receive him into the joy of your heavenly home.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

CONFERRAL OF THE HALF HABIT

Then the celebrant pronounces the following words, while the brother responsible for formation confers the half habit.

C Dear brother,
receive this half habit with which you are officially admitted
to the Year of Test in the religious community
of the *“Little Friars and Little Nuns of Jesus and Mary.”*
Live in such a way that, with the help of the Mother of God,
you may more and more put on Christ, who redeemed us by his blood,
for the glory of the Trinity and for the service of the Church and of your neighbor.

R. Amen.

INVESTITURE + SONG

When the investiture is finished, the Superior turns to the new Postulant, saying:

S With the sign of this half habit, our religious community welcomes you,
in order that you may more fully serve Christ and his Church
in the spirit of the religious Community of the
“Little Friars and Little Nuns of Jesus and Mary,” approved by the Catholic Church.
So that you may more completely achieve that goal, I admit you, in virtue of the power
entrusted to me, into a participation in all the spiritual favors belonging to this religious family.

R. Amen.

The prayers of the faithful follow.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

C God, our good Father, you chose the most pure womb of the Virgin Mary to clothe the Word of life in mortal flesh by the work of the Holy Spirit, so that, having been made participants in the grace of Christ, the first-born of many brothers, we might live to the praise of your glory. Sustained by the intercession of Mary, our Mother and Queen, let us say together:

R. Dress us, O Father, in Christ your Son.

L Father, you willed to have your beloved Son take on our humanity, so that in him we might share your own life; grant that we may be called and truly be your children. For this we pray: **R.**

You wished Christ to be in every respect like us, but without sin, so that in following him we might share in his filial image; grant that we may follow Christ so as to please you in all things. For this we pray: **R.**

You call all those who are clothed in the wedding garment of the kingdom to the feast of your grace, where you reveal yourself to them; teach us to serve and love you loyally. For this we pray: **R.**

Through Saint Paul you urge us to be the sweet fragrance of Christ's goodness in the world; let us become the sign of Christ's presence for our brothers and sisters. For this we pray: **R.**

You clothe us with the robe of righteousness and holiness, so that through the Holy Spirit we may live for you and show forth the holiness of your Church; through Christ make us grow in holiness, so that we may work together generously for the salvation of others. For this we pray: **R.**

You bless us with every spiritual blessing in Christ, so that at his glorious coming, we may run towards him clothed in the wedding garment; Grant that, with Mary at our side together with your saints, we may pass from death to endless life. For this we pray: **R.**

C Our life, O Lord, is in your hands: you call us and you give us the grace to answer; you indicate to us our goal and accompany us along the way. Look with kindness upon your son who is now officially entering the Postulancy: that every day may be for him a new step along the path that leads to You; that he may increasingly grow in fraternal and ecclesial communion; and that we may increasingly become, in Christ, one heart and one soul.

Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

EUCCHARISTIC LITURGY

The Eucharistic Liturgy follows as normal with the offertory.

FINAL BLESSING AND CONCLUSION

The celebrant says the following words (or another suitable formulary), while stretching out his hands over those present.

C **M**ay almighty God bless you
With his gentle kindness
And give you the vision of his saving wisdom.

R. Amen.

May he continue to nourish you
with the teaching of faith
and enable you to remain steadfast in doing what is right.

R. Amen.

May he turn your steps always toward him,
and lead you along the pathway
of peace and charity.

R. Amen.

And may almighty God bless you all,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

FINAL SONG