

Rite of Investiture
With the Half Habit for the year of Test¹
outside 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 outside the Eucharistic Celebration

ENTRANCE SONG

When all have gathered, a suitable song may be sung, or there may be a brief moment of recollection. Then all make the sign of the cross, while the celebrant says:

C In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

Through the Son, born of Mary,
every blessing comes to us from God the Father.
May his grace and peace be with you all.

R. And with your spirit.

INTRODUCTION

The celebrant, or another suitable person, introduces the rite of blessing with these (or similar) words:

C God uses ordinary things as signs to express his extraordinary mercy towards us. Through simple things as well we express our gratitude, declare our willingness to serve God, and profess the resolve to live up to our baptismal commitment.

This half habit is a sign of belonging to the Religious Community of the "*Little Friars and Little Nuns of Jesus and Mary*," approved by the Church. The half habit thus expresses the intention of sharing in the spirit and in the fellowship of prayer of that Community.

That intention renews our baptismal resolve to put on Christ, with the help of the Virgin Mary, to the praise and glory of the Trinity, until, living in its mystery of love, and dressed for the wedding feast, we reach our home in heaven.

Through Christ, our Lord.

R. Amen.

READING OF THE WORD OF GOD

Jonah 3:1-10

Preaching at Nineveh and the conversion of its inhabitants...

L Brothers and sisters, listen to the words of the book of the prophet Jonah:

The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time: "Set out for the great city of Nineveh, and announce to it the message that I will tell you." So Jonah set out for Nineveh, in accord with the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an awesomely great city; it took three days to walk through it. Jonah began his journey through the city, and when he had gone only a single day's walk announcing, "Forty days more and Nineveh shall be overthrown," the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast and all of them, great and small, put on sackcloth. When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, laid aside his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. Then he had this proclaimed throughout Nineveh: "By decree of the king and his nobles, no man or beast, no cattle or sheep, shall taste anything; they shall not eat, nor shall they drink water. Man and beast alike must be covered with sackcloth and call loudly to God; they all must turn from their evil way and from the violence of their hands. Who knows? God may again repent and turn from his blazing wrath, so that we will not perish." When God saw by their actions how they turned from their evil way, he repented of the evil he had threatened to do to them; he did not carry it out.

The Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

C BRIEF EXHORTATION (little "homily")

Brief silence.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

C **G**od, 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:

C+A **R.** Dress us, O Father, in Christ your Son.

C 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 And now let us all together pray as the Lord has taught us.

C+A **Our Father.**

READING OF THE REQUEST OF ADMISSION TO THE YEAR OF TEST

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

PRAYER FOR THE BLESSING OF THE HALF HABIT

With hands outstretched, the celebrant continues:

- 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 of 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

After the investiture, the celebrant turns to the new postulant, saying:

C 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.

FINAL BLESSING AND CONCLUSION

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

C May 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