

**Rite of Investiture**  
**With the Full Habit for the two years of Novitiate<sup>1</sup>**  
**outside the Eucharistic Celebration**

---

<sup>1</sup> 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 full habit of the *Little Friars and Little Nuns of Jesus and Mary*]

## Rite of Investiture with the Full 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 full 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 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

### Luke 10:1-13

*They would long ago have repented, sitting in sackcloth and ashes.*

#### **L Brothers and sisters, listen to the words of the Gospel according to Luke:**

After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others whom he sent ahead of him in pairs to every town and place he intended to visit. He said to them, "The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest. Go on your way; behold, I am sending you like lambs among wolves. Carry no money bag, no sack, no sandals; and greet no one along the way. Into whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this household.' If a peaceful person\* lives there, your peace will rest on him; but if not, it will return to you. Stay in the same house and eat and drink what is offered to you, for the laborer deserves his payment. Do not move about from one house to another. Whatever town you enter and they welcome you, eat what is set before you, cure the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God is at hand for you.' Whatever town you enter and they do not receive you, go out into the streets and say, 'The dust of your town that clings to our feet, even that we shake off against you.' Yet know this: the kingdom of God is at hand. I tell you, it will be more tolerable for Sodom on that day than for that town. "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty deeds done in your midst had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would long ago have repented, sitting in sackcloth and ashes.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

#### **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.

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** **A**nd now let us all together pray as the Lord has taught us.

**C+A** **O**ur Father.

## READING OF THE REQUEST OF ADMISSION TO THE NOVITIATE

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

### PRAYER FOR THE BLESSING OF THE CANDIDATE

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 son of yours**

who devoutly receives this full habit, already blessed by the Bishop,  
to the praise and glory of your name,  
in honor of the blessed Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel,  
of Saint Francis of Assisi, of Saint Padre Pio of Pietrelcina,  
of Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, and of Saint Maximilian Maria Kolbe,  
that he may be increasingly conformed to the image of your Son,  
so that at the end of his life, he, with the help of the Virgin Mother,  
may enter into the joy of your dwelling.

Through Christ our Lord.

**R. Amen.**

### CONFERRAL OF THE FULL HABIT

Then the celebrant pronounces the following words, while the brother responsible for formation confers the full habit:

**C** Dear brother, receive this full habit with which you are officially admitted  
to the Novitiate of 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 novice, saying:

- C** **W**ith the sign of this full 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** **M**ay almighty God bless you  
With his gentle kindness  
And give you the vision of his saving wisdom.

**R. Amen.**

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

**R. Amen.**

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

**R. Amen.**

**A**nd may almighty God bless you all,  
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.

**R. Amen.**

### **FINAL SONG**