

Rite of the First Profession of Temporary Vows¹

¹ Edward Foley, *Rites of Religious Profession: Pastoral Introduction and Complete Text*. Liturgy Training Publications: Chicago (IL), 1989. / The Roman Missal. Liturgy Training Publications: Chicago (IL), 2011. / CONFERENZA EPISCOPALE ITALIANA, *Rito della professione religiosa*, Roma, ed. Conferenza Episcopale Italiana, 1975 coll. Rituale Romano, riformato a norma dei decreti del Concilio Ecumenico Vaticano II e promulgato da papa Paolo VI. Versione italiana approvata dalla S. Congregazione per il Culto divino il 13 gennaio 1975. “Tipica” per la lingua italiana. Di uso obbligatorio dal 2 febbraio 1976. Rite adapted for use by the pfsqm.

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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 profession be accompanied by the formator and female superior. 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 prayer of the faithful is after the profession.

RELIGIOUS PROFESSION

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

The presider and the faithful all sit while the candidate remains standing. The deacon or female formator calls the candidate by name:

C - (Name)

The candidate answers:

R. Present.

The minister asks the candidate the following question using these or similar words:

C - **D**ear sister,
you have shared and experienced our way of life during the novitiate.
What do you ask now, before this gathered assembly?

The candidate reads from the ambo the **REQUEST OF ADMISSION TO THE TEMPORARY PROFESSION**, or answers:

**R. I, (Name)....., with the help of God,
have come to know the Rule of the "Little Friars and Little Nuns of Jesus and Mary"
approved by the Catholic Church in the diocese of Noto,
living in fraternal charity with you
during the six months of experience, the year of test and the two years of novitiate:
I now humbly ask of you,,
that I may make my religious profession in this family for one year.**

The minister, the female superior and the religious community answer:

R. Thanks be to God.

HOMILY

QUESTIONS – AFTER THE HOMILY AND BEFORE THE OFFERTORY

The candidate stands up. The celebrant asks if the candidate is willing to consecrate herself to God and practice perfect charity according to the Rule or Constitutions of the religious family.

The celebrant asks:

- C** - Dear Sister, you are already dead to sin and consecrated to the Lord through Baptism; are you resolved to be united more closely with Him by the new and special bond of the temporary religious profession?

The candidate answers:

R. I am.

The celebrant:

- C** - Are you resolved, during this year, to live in chastity for the kingdom of heaven, to embrace voluntary poverty, and to offer God the gift of your obedience, in order to follow Christ in the way of evangelical profession?

The candidate:

R. I am.

Then the Celebrant acknowledges her decision with these words:

- C** - May the Almighty God, by his grace, grant your request.

R. Amen.

- C** - Let us pray.

O Lord, watch over this daughter of yours, who today with her temporary profession is resolved to consecrate herself to You, following the evangelical counsels. Grant that her life may glorify Your Name and cooperate in the mystery of salvation. Through Christ our Lord. **R. Amen.**

PROFESSION

The Novice presents herself before the female Servant General or her delegate, with two professed sisters alongside as witnesses, and reads the formula of the profession:

“I,, born in (.....) on the, HAVING COMPLETED THE PERIOD OF INTERNAL FORMATION AND NOVITIATE among the ‘Little Friars and Little Nuns of Jesus and Mary,’ promise before God, the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Angels and the Saints, and you brethren – for the greater glory of God and the salvation of the most souls possible – that I want to fully live the Gospel fully, in deed and in the Truth; and ‘in your hands,’,

for the 1st year of the three years of temporary vows,

I vow to live in CHASTITY, POVERTY, and OBEDIENCE [understood according to the present Statute]. I therefore entrust myself with all my heart to God, to Mary, and to this fraternity of Little Ones, in order to realize my total consecration to Christ, at the service of his Body which is the Church, for the good of all those whom the Lord will give me the grace to meet.”

When the profession has been made, the Superior replies:

- **And I** – according to the Word of God and the Tradition of the Roman Catholic Church – promise you blessed eternal life and glorious immortality, in your holy perseverance.

R. Amen.

SIGNING THE FORM OF THE PROFESSION ON THE ALTAR

Then the newly professed goes to the altar and lays down the sheet with the formula of the profession; on this altar, if possible, she signs the document of the profession and returns to her place.

EMBRACE

After the signature, all the sisters exchange a fraternal embrace or another gesture with the newly professed, as a sign of welcome into the community. Meanwhile, the choir and the assembly sing a suitable song.

The prayer of the faithful then follows.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Dear friends, as we celebrate the paschal mystery of Christ and the first profession of this sister, let us pray together to God the almighty Father, through Jesus Christ, the inspiration of religious life.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

- For the holy Church of God, that adorned by the virtues of her children she may shine ever more brightly for Christ, her Bridegroom: let us pray to the Lord. **R.**

- For our holy father the Pope and the other bishops, that the Holy Spirit who filled the apostles may pour out his grace unceasingly upon their successors: let us pray to the Lord. **R.**

- For all those who minister to the Church, that by word and work they may lead to salvation the people entrusted to their care: let us pray to the Lord. **R.**

- For the peace and salvation of the world, that all religious may be messengers and servants of the peace of Christ: let us pray to the Lord **R.**

- For the good of all people, that those who are dedicated to the Lord's service may pursue the things of heaven and spend their days in the service of others: let us pray to the Lord. **R.**

- For all who believe in Christ, that they may listen attentively to the secret voice of God as he invites them all to a life of holiness: let us pray to the Lord. **R.**

- For all religious, that they may offer spiritual sacrifices to God with heart and tongue, with hand and mind, in labor and suffering: let us pray to the Lord. **R.**

- For all religious, that each one, according to the call of God, may increase the holiness of the Church and work to spread God's kingdom: let us pray to the Lord. **R.**

- For this sister of ours,, who has today bound herself more closely to God's service, that her heart may be filled with generous love for all: let us pray to the Lord. **R.**

- For all here present, that we may be faithful to Christ's teaching as he calls us to be perfect, and that we may bear fruit in holiness, grow into the fullness of Christ, and meet together in the heavenly city of peace: let us pray to the Lord. **R.**

Protect your family, O Lord,
and hear our prayer for this our sister
who offers to You the first-fruits of her consecration.

Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

After the embrace, everyone returns to their seats and the Mass continues as usual with the offertory.

FINAL BLESSING AND CONCLUSION

After the prayer after communion, the newly professed goes to the altar and the celebrant, facing her and the people, proclaims the following blessing:

C - May God, the inspirer of every good resolve, foster your purpose and strengthen your heart, that what you have promised you may keep with persevering faith.

R. Amen.

C - May he grant you to hasten in the joy of Christ along the narrow way you have chosen, rejoicing to bear the burdens of your sisters.

R. Amen.

C - May the charity of God make of you a family, brought together in the Lord's name, to show forth the image of the love of Christ.

R. Amen.

C - And may almighty God bless all of you, who are gathered for these sacred rites, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

FINAL SONG