

Rite of The Perpetual Profession of Vows¹

¹ 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. Translated by *pfs gm*, following various indications of the English liturgy, and adapted for the use of the *pfs gm* community.

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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 take part in the procession, accompanied by the formator and female superior. Once in the sanctuary and having revered the altar, everyone takes their place and the Mass continues as usual.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The readings may be chosen from the Mass of the day or the texts of the Lectionary for religious profession. The Creed is optional, even when prescribed by the liturgy of the day. The prayer of the faithful is omitted.

RELIGIOUS PROFESSION

REQUEST - AFTER THE READING OF THE GOSPEL AND BEFORE THE HOMILY

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

D - (Name)

The candidate answers:

R. Lord, you have called me: here I am.

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

C - Dear sister, what do you ask of God and of his holy Church?

The candidate goes to the ambo and reads the following REQUEST OF ADMISSION TO PERPETUAL PROFESSION, or answers:

R. I ask to follow Christ as my Spouse
in this religious family of the *Little Friars and Little Nuns of Jesus and Mary*,
approved by the Catholic Church in the diocese of Noto,
and to persevere in this resolve until death.

The celebrant, the superior, and the religious community respond:

R. Thanks be to God.

HOMILY

QUESTIONS – AFTER THE HOMILY AND BEFORE THE OFFERTORY

The candidate rises. The celebrant asks if the candidate is resolved 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 now resolved to consecrate yourself more intimately to him by the new and special bond of perpetual profession?

The candidate answers:

R. I am.

The celebrant:

- C** - Are you resolved, with the help of God, to embrace forever the life of perfect chastity, obedience, and poverty which was chosen by Christ the Lord and by his Virgin Mother?

The candidate:

R. I am.

The celebrant:

- C** - Are you resolved to commit yourself constantly to following the Gospel and observing the Rule of the *Little Friars and Little Nuns of Jesus and Mary*, in order to reach perfect charity towards God and towards your neighbor?

The candidate:

R. I am.

The celebrant:

- C** - Are you resolved, with the grace of the Holy Spirit, to generously dedicate your whole life to the service of the people of God?

The candidate:

R. I am.

The celebrant acknowledges her decision with these words:

- C** - May God who, has begun this good work in you, bring it to completion until the day of Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

- Lord, be merciful,
From all evil,
From every sin,
From everlasting death,
By your Incarnation,
By your Death and Resurrection,
By the outpouring of the Holy Spirit,

Lord, deliver us, we pray
Lord, deliver us, we pray
Lord, deliver us, we pray
Lord, deliver us, we pray
Lord, deliver us, we pray
Lord, deliver us, we pray

- Be merciful to us sinners,

Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer

Illuminate and guide
the life and work of religious in favor
of the whole human family

Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer

Grant that all religious communities
may live in the charity of Christ
following the example of their founders

Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer

Reward with the fullness of blessing
the parents who have offered
their daughter to you

Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer

Grant this our sister
the strength to persevere in the new commitment
of consecrated life

Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer

Bless, sanctify, and consecrate
this sister

Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer

Jesus, Son of the Living God,

Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.

- Christ, hear us.

Christ, hear us.

- Christ, graciously hear us.

Christ, graciously hear us.

With arms extended, the celebrant says:

C - Lord, receive the prayers of your people,
and prepare this daughter of yours with your grace,
that the fire of the Holy Spirit may purify her from sin
and set her on fire with the ardor of charity.
Through Christ, our Lord.

R. Amen.

The deacon says:

D - Let us rise.

All rise.

PROFESSION

After the litany, two professed sisters stand near the female superior and act as witnesses. The candidate presents herself before the female superior and reads the formula of profession, written in her own hand:

I,, born in (.....) on, having completed the period of internal formation, novitiate, and the three years of temporary vows (cf. Ch. 2,18) among the *Little Friars and Little Nuns of Jesus and Mary*, officially promise before God, the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Angels and Saints, and you brethren – for the greater glory of God and the salvation of the most souls possible – that I want to live the Gospel fully and forever, in deed and in truth; and “in your hands,”, I vow to live in CHASTITY, POVERTY, and OBEDIENCE until death [understood according to the present Statute]. I therefore entrust myself for all my life 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.

The superior responds:

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

All respond:

R. Amen.

SIGNING OF THE PROFESSION ON THE ALTAR

The newly professed goes to the altar and places upon it the sheet with the formula of profession; on this altar (if possible) she signs the document of profession and returns to her place.

There follows the SOLEMN BENEDICTION:

SOLEMN BENEDICTION OR CONSECRATION OF THE NEWLY PROFESSED

The newly professed kneels; the celebrant, with hands extended over her, says the prayer of blessing. The phrases in brackets may be omitted.

C - O God, author and guardian of every holy resolve,
let the song of our praise rise to you:
with ineffable love,
through your Word, in the Holy Spirit,
you created the human family,
and in your infinite goodness
you wished to unite it with you in a communion of life,
to adorn it, as a spouse,
with the splendor of your image
and the gifts of eternal life.
And when, through the deceit of the devil,
the bond of their fidelity was broken,
you did not exclude them from the nuptial covenant,
but moved by eternal love,
you renewed in Noah, your servant,
the ancient pact of the covenant.

[From Abraham, the father of our faith,
you raised up a people more numerous than the stars of the sky,
and with Moses, your elect,
you enshrined the covenant on the tables of the law.
From among this people whom you loved,
over the course of the centuries, there rose up holy women,
distinguished for their piety and strength,
glorious for their faith and the holiness of their lives.]

And in the fullness of time,
from the root of Jesse you brought forth the Virgin Mary,
who, overshadowed by your power
by the work of the Holy Spirit,
gave birth from her virginal womb
to the Redeemer of the world.
He - poor, humble, and obedient, -
became the source and model of all holiness;
he founded the Church his bride and loved her with such great love
that he offered himself for her
and sanctified her with his own blood.

And you, holy Father, with providential design,
wished that an innumerable host of your daughters
might follow Christ as disciples
and be raised to the dignity of his bride.

[The holy Church flourishes
With an admirable variety of charisms, like a bride adorned with gems,
A queen splendid with glory, a joyful mother of children.]

O Father, we humbly pray:
send forth your spirit over this daughter of yours
to nourish in her the flame of the resolution
which You have lit in her heart.

May the purity of Baptism and the innocence of life
be resplendent in her;
May she cling to you with the fervor of charity,
fortified by the holy bond of her profession.
May she faithfully preserve her union with Christ, her only Spouse;
may she love the Church our Mother with a generous love,
and in the charity of Christ may she embrace all the brethren,
giving witness to the blessed hope of heavenly goods.

Lord, holy Father, in your mercy
guide the steps of this daughter of yours;
protect her in her journey,
that when she stands before the judgment seat of the eternal King,
she may not fear the word of the judge,
but may recognize the voice of her Spouse
who invites her to the joy of the eternal wedding-feast.

Through Christ, our Lord.

R. Amen.

EMBRACE

After the solemn benediction, if deemed appropriate, the perpetual profession of the newly professed may be acknowledged with the fraternal embrace. Or, omitting the above, the superior says these or similar words:

S Dearest daughter, you are now fully part of this religious family
of the *Little Friars and Little Nuns of Jesus and Mary*,
and from now on we will have everything in common.

If considered appropriate, the celebrant adds:

C Therefore, fulfill faithfully
the holy ministry which the Church entrusts to you
and carry it out in her name.

The whole religious family gives their consent, saying:

R. Amen.

All return to their places and the Mass continues as usual with the offertory.

EUCCHARISTIC LITURGY

During the OFFERTORY, the newly professed may bring to the altar the bread, wine, and water for the sacrifice of the Mass.

In the intercessions of EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER II, after the words and all the clergy, the following is added:

**Be mindful also, Lord, of this sister,
Who has left all things for your sake
In order to find you in all things
And, forgetful of herself, to look to the needs of all.**

Remember also our brothers and sisters...

In the intercessions of EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER III, after the words the entire people you have gained for your own, the following is added:

**Strengthen in her holy resolve, O Lord,
This your servant,
Who seeks to follow your Christ in faithful devotion,
Giving a witness of evangelical life and of fraternal love.**

Listen graciously to the prayers of this family...

If considered appropriate, the celebrant may exchange the SIGN OF PEACE in the customary way with the newly professed.

After the celebrant has received the Body and Blood of the Lord, the newly professed approaches the altar to receive COMMUNION, which may be given to her under both species.

Her parents, family members, fellow Sisters, and – at the discretion of the local Ordinary – all present at the celebration may receive the Eucharist in the same way.

FINAL BLESSING AND CONCLUSION

After the prayer after communion, the newly professed stands before the altar and the celebrant, turning towards her and the people, proclaims the following formula of benediction:

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 us 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