

## ***The Rite of Reception***

### INTRODUCTION

*The rite of reception most properly takes place during Morning or Evening Prayer, or during a celebration of the Mass, immediately following the homily. Reception may, if necessary for pastoral reasons, take place with the rite of profession, in which case it is celebrated during a Eucharistic Liturgy.*

*The rite is to be simple and should be performed in the presence of one's Chapter of the Dominican Laity and invited guests.*

*When they are present, the President of the Provincial Council and the Provincial Promoter should be invited to participate.*

*Before the ceremony begins, a member of the Chapter—for example, the Prior / Prioress/ Moderator / or the Formation Director—may give a short explanation of the meaning of the event. The text should ordinarily be composed especially for the ceremony. The following may be used as a model:<sup>1</sup>*

The Lord has called us to live an apostolic way of life just as He called our Holy Father Dominic. We come together today to receive into the Dominican Family those who, moved by the Holy Spirit, have asked to be admitted as Lay Dominicans. They want to continue their time of initial formation, at the end of which they will be eligible for their first profession. May the Holy Spirit who has called them to this day continue to give them the grace of perseverance in their journey of faith!

*After the scripture reading and homily, the / Prior / Prioress /Moderator, the Formation Director and the Chaplin stand before the altar with the Prior / Prioress /Moderator in the center. The Formation Director calls forward those to be received.*

### CALLING

#### Formation Director:

Today we welcome those asking to be received as members of the Dominican Laity of this Chapter. Will those seeking to be admitted please come forward?

*Each Postulant/ Inquirer is called by name, at which time the candidate stands, gives assent and comes forward.*

<sup>1</sup>In this and similar instances, the text should be adapted to the number of Postulants/ Inquirers being received.

#### Postulant/Inquirer:

Present.

### REQUEST FOR ADMISSION

*(OPTIONAL: When all the postulants/ inquirers have come forward to the center, they in unison prostrate themselves and the Prior / Prioress/ Moderator continue.)*

*When all the Postulants/Inquirers have come forward, the Prior / Prioress/ Moderator continues.*

Prior / Prioress/ Moderator:

What do you seek?

Postulant/Inquirer:

God's mercy and yours.

Prior / Prioress/ Moderator:

Do you wish to observe The Rule of the Dominican Laity as well as the customs and guidelines of the Particular Directory of the Western Dominican Province?

Postulant/Inquirer:

I do, with the help of God.

*(If they are prostrated, the Prior / Prioress/ Moderator continues by asking them to stand.)*

#### INSTRUCTION AND BLESSING

Prior / Prioress/ Moderator:

Drawn by God's mercy, you have (each) come here to learn our way of life. Following the example of Saint Dominic and Saint Catherine of Siena, and strengthened by the mutual sharing within this Chapter, you are called to give witness to your Faith and to serve the Truth, inspired by the charism of our Order; keep in mind that your apostolic activity must flow from the fullness of your prayer and contemplation.

May the mercy of God be with you always and may Christ, who is our Truth, grant you light and peace!

*The Chaplin prays:*

Chaplin:

Loving Father, You have inspired your servants to serve Your Son and to be witnesses with Him. Grant that through the intercession of blessed Dominic, our Father, these (men and women) may be faithful to his example and to the whole Order. We ask this through Christ our Lord. *(All: Amen.)*

#### PRESENTATION OF THE SCAPULAR

*The Formation Director presents the white scapulars to be blessed.*

Chaplin:

Loving God, we ask you to bless + these scapulars as a symbol of innocence and humility. Grant that those who wear them may be heirs of the promise given to the faithful servant, and may be blessed in the life they seek to share with you. We ask this through Christ our Lord. *(All: Amen.)*

*As each Postulant/Inquirer kneels in turn before the Prior / Prioress/ Moderator, the Formation Director places the scapular over the head of each Postulant/ Inquirer. The Moderator / Prior / Prioress may be handed a card on which is written the name of the individual's patron saint. The Moderator / Prior / Prioress says:*

Prior / Prioress/ Moderator:

Receive this scapular of our Order, the pledge of Our Blessed Mother's love for us. Wear it as a sign of your pledge to persevere in bearing witness to the Truth and to lead a virtuous life according to The Rule and the customs of our Order.

#### PATRON SAINT

Prior / Prioress/ Moderator:

Be faithful to Saint (*name*) whom you have chosen as your patron to assist you as you live your life as a Dominican.

*The Moderator / Prior / Prioress then invites all Dominicans present to welcome the new members by exchanging the Sign of Peace, beginning with those in the sanctuary.*

*The Liturgy of the Hours resumes with the Gospel Canticle; or, if a Liturgy of the Word is being celebrated, it concludes with the Optional Dismissal.*

#### OPTIONAL DISMISSAL

*In a Service of the Word, the following may be used as the concluding prayer and dismissal.*

Prior / Prioress/ Moderator:

Let us pray. Loving Father, You call us to follow in the footsteps of Jesus, Your Son, and you inspire us to hear your call. These brothers and sisters of ours desire to test our way of life. Help them to know what you ask of them and strengthen us all in your service. We ask this through Christ our Lord. (*All: Amen.*)

Chaplin:

And now may God bless us, Father, Son + and Holy Spirit. Let us go in peace!

#### INTRODUCTION

*The rite of profession most properly takes place during the Eucharistic Liturgy, or, if that is impossible, during Morning or Evening Prayer. The ceremony follows the Gospel.*

*The rite should be simple so that all superfluous elements are avoided. The ceremony should be performed in the presence of one's Chapter of the Dominican Laity and invited guests.*

*When they are present, the President of the Provincial Council and the Provincial Promoter should be invited to participate.*

*Before the ceremony begins, a member of the Chapter—for example, the Prior / Prioress/ Moderator or Formation Director—may give a short admonition on the meaning of the event. It is appropriate that this introductory text be composed especially for the ceremony. The following may be used as a model:*

Today we welcome (*number*) member(s) of our Chapter who will make profession to The Rule of the Dominican Laity. This profession will bind them more closely to the Dominican Family and to the service of justice and truth. As the Lord called our Holy Father Saint Dominic and our sister Saint Catherine of Siena, so, too, are we called to participate more fully in the life of the Church. We pray that what is done here today may be for the glory of God and the salvation of souls.

*After the scripture reading and before the homily, the Prior / Prioress/ Moderator, the Formation Director and the Religious Assistant stand before the altar with the Prior / Prioress/ Moderator in the center. The Formation Director calls forward those who are to make promises.*

#### THE CALLING

Formation Director:

Will those seeking to be professed in the Dominican Laity please come forward?

*Each Novice/ Candidate, wearing the scapular, when called by name, stands, gives assent and comes forward.*

Novice/ Candidate:

Present.

*(OPTIONAL: When all the Candidates have come forward to the center, they in unison prostrate themselves and the Prior / Prioress/ Moderator continue.)*

#### REQUEST FOR ADMISSION

*When all the Novice/ Candidate have come forward, the Prior / Prioress/ Moderator continues:*

Prior / Prioress/ Moderator:

What do you seek of God and His Church?

Candidates / Novices:

God's mercy and yours.

*Afterwards, the Novices/Candidates come forward again to be questioned about their readiness and intentions.*

#### DECLARATION AND PROFESSION

Prior / Prioress/ Moderator:

In the presence of your Dominican brothers and sisters, and of the People of God gathered here, I ask you to state your intentions. Do you wish to observe The Rule of the Dominican Laity as well as the customs and guidelines of our Province Directory?

Novices/ Candidates:

I do, with the help of God.

Prior / Prioress/ Moderator:

You have been called to give witness to the Reign of God and help build a world of peace and justice based on the Gospels. Do you wish to be faithful to this vocation and to practice the Beatitudes through the example of Saint Dominic?

Novices/ Candidates:

I do, with the help of God.

Prior / Prioress/ Moderator:

You were made members of the People of God in Baptism, and strengthened in Confirmation by the gift of the Holy Spirit. Do you wish to be bound more closely to the Church so you may strive more intently to preach the Word, according to your state in life, both when convenient and inconvenient?

Novices/ Candidates:

I do, with the help of God.

*(If they are prostrated, the Prior / Prioress/ Moderator continues by asking them to stand.)*

Chaplin:

This Chapter, part of our worldwide Dominican Family, duly authorized by the Master of the Order of Friars Preachers, welcomes you with great joy. May the Lord bring to perfection the good work begun in you!

*Each Candidate / Novice in turn kneels before the Moderator / Prior / Prioress. Placing his/her right hand on The Rule, each recites the formula of profession:*

To the honor of Almighty God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and of the Blessed Virgin Mary and of Saint Dominic, I (name), before you (name), the Prior/Prioress/Moderator / of this Chapter and (name), the religious promoter, representing the Master of the Order of Friars Preachers, promise to live according to The Rule of the Dominican Laity for [*insert the appropriate period of time*] (three years or my whole life).

*The Chaplin continues:*

#### PRAYER

Chaplin:

Lord our God, Your grace has led these, your servants, to live their faith more fully in this world by coming to profess the Gospel according to the life and Rule of the Dominican Laity. By the power of your Holy Spirit, may they give witness to the life and teachings of your Son to all the world. Grant that they may be continually united to Christ through the gifts of their lives, so that your word may be proclaimed to the very ends of the earth. We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
*(All: Amen.)*

## OPTIONAL BLESSING OF CROSS OR MEDAL

*As an option, the Religious Assistant may bless a Dominican cross or a Dominican medal to be worn by the newly professed.*

### Chaplin:

Heavenly Father, You sent your Son to us because you love us and want to save us. By the Power of His cross, the sign of glory, free us from sin and let us live each day for you. Bless + this cross (medal), and let it remind us that Jesus died and rose for all. Help us to carry our cross with Him every day, and to follow Him in serving others. We ask this through Christ our Lord. *(All: Amen.)*

*Each newly professed kneels or stands before the Prior / Prioress/ Moderator who places the cross around his/her neck or gives each a medal. The deacon, or in his absence the celebrant, invites all to exchange a sign of peace. The Mass continues.*

*In a service of the word, the final blessing and dismissal are given, or if the Liturgy of the Hours is being celebrated, it resumes with the Gospel Canticle.*