

# RECEPTION & PROFESSION CEREMONIAL



The Dominican Laity

(Place)

(Date)

**Appendix E** (See The Rule, Section II.14, Particular Directory, Section III. B. 4-6.)

INTRODUCTION

*The rite of reception / 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 Moderator/ Prior / Prioress 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:<sup>27</sup>*

**RECEPTION AND PROFESSION CEREMONY**

**RECEPTION**

(AFTER the Scripture Readings, and the Homily; the Prioress, Director of Formation and Spiritual Director stand before the altar.)

**PRIOR(ESS):**

Today we come together to receive (number) Postulant(s) who has asked to be admitted as a Lay Dominican and wants to continue his/her/their time of initial formation which will eventually culminate in his/her/their first profession. This step will bind him/her/them more closely to the Dominican Family and to the service of justice and truth. As the Lord called our holy Father St. Dominic and our sister St. 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.

**FORMATION DIRECTOR:**

The Formation Director calls forward those to be *RECEIVED*:

“Will those seeking to be admitted please come forward.”

(Names)

(Each **POSTULANT** is called by name, at which time the **POSTULANT** stands and gives assent.)

**POSTULANT:** Present.

(All Postulants stand before the communion rail)

**REQUEST FOR ADMISSION:**

**PRIOR(ESS):** What do you seek?

**POSTULANT(S):** God's mercy and yours.

**PRIOR(ESS):** Do you wish to observe the Rule of the Dominican Laity as well as the customs and guidelines of the Particular Directory for the Western Dominican Province?

**POSTULANT(S):** I do, with the help of God.

### **INSTRUCTION AND BLESSING:**

**PRIOR(ESS):**

Drawn by God's mercy, you have each come here to learn our way of life. Following the example of St. Dominic and St. Catherine of Siena, and strengthened by the mutual sharing within this Chapter community, you are called to give witness to your Faith and to serve the Truth. You will do these things by showing compassion to those in distress, by defending justice and promoting peace. 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!

### **SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR OFFERS THE PRAYER:**

Loving Father, you have inspired Your servants to serve Your Son and to be witness 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.)

### **BLESSING OF THE MEDAL AND SCAPULAR:**

**SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR:**

Loving God, we ask You to bless + this scapular as a symbol of innocence and humility. Likewise, we ask You to bless + this medal which may be worn in place of the scapular. Help us to carry our cross with Him every day, and to follow Him in serving others. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **PRESENTATION OF THE SCAPULAR**

(The Postulant will kneel before the Prioress.) (As the **Prioress** says the prayer, the **Formation Director** places the scapular and the medal over the head of each Postulant.)

**PRIOR(ESS):** 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 Rules and the customs of our Order. Be faithful to **NAME OF PATRON SAINT**

whom you have chosen as your patron to assist you as you live your life as a Dominican.

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

**CLOSING PRAYER (only if there are no professions)**

**SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR:** 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

(The Inquirer/Postulant stands, and returns to their seat)

**CEREMONY FOR PROFESSION:**

**FORMATION DIRECTOR:** Will those seeking to be professed in the Dominican Laity please come forward.

(Each Candidate/Novice, is called by name, stands, gives assent and comes forward.)

[ Names ]

**CANDIDATE/NOVICE:** Present.

**PRIORESS:** What do you seek of God and His Church?

**NOVICE(S):** God's mercy and yours.

**DECLARATION AND PROFESSION:**

**PRIORESS:** 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 the Particular Directory for the Western Dominican Province?

**NOVICE(S):** I do, with the help of God.

**PRIORESS:** 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 St. Dominic?

**NOVICE(S):** I do, with the help of God.

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

**NOVICE(S):** I do, with the help of God.

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

### **BLESSING OF CROSSES**

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

**SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR:** 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 Candidate/Novice in turn kneels or stands before the Prioress. Placing their right hand on the Rule, each recites the formula of Profession. **The Formation Director** places the cross on the Candidate/Novice)

**NOVICE(S):** To the honor of Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and of the Blessed Virgin Mary and of St. Dominic, I, (Saint's Name), before you, (Prior/Prioress Saint's name), Prioress/Prior of this Chapter, and in the presence of **Father (Name)**, our Spiritual Director, representing the Master of the Order of Friars Preachers, promise that I will live according to the Rule of the Dominican Laity for (Number) years.

(Each returns to seat.)

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

**SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR:** 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)

(Following the Mass, Inquirers/Postulants and Candidate/Novices may stand in the middle aisle and are welcomed by their brethren.)