



Rite of Permanent Commitment
to the Gospel Life within the Mass:
Profession in the Secular Franciscan Order

Confirmation of the Rule Giotto di Bondone, 1299

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Rite of Profession in the Secular Franciscan Order



Entrance Rite

Opening Hymn

Member of the fraternity or celebrant:

We are assembled as a community to take part in the Eucharistic Sacrifice. In this celebration of the Eucharist, N.N. are going to make their profession of the gospel life in the Secular Franciscan Order.

While giving thanks to the Father through Christ for all the gifts we have received from him, we have a special reason for gratitude today: the gift of his grace which he has given to those about to be professed to live in the world according to the spirit of the Beatitudes, and also the gift of his grace which he has given to the whole community by adding new members to the fraternity.

Especially today, after the example of Christ and in union with his own act of thanksgiving, we are invited to present ourselves before the Father as living sacrifices of praise given for the life of the world.

 Liturgy of the Word

First Reading:

Psalm Response:

Gospel:

 Request

After the proclamation of the Gospel, the celebrant and the people sit. Those who are to be professed stand.

Minister:

Let those who are seeking profession in the Secular Franciscan Order please come forward, namely:

Candidate(s):

I am ready and willing. (or Present.)

Minister:

God has consecrated you with water and the Holy Spirit. What do you now ask of God, the Church and the Franciscan Family?

The candidates make their request in these or similar words (either individually, each in one's own words, by means of one speaking in the name of all or by all speaking together):

Candidate(s):

We ask to be admitted to profession of the Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order. The experience during our time of formation has strengthened us in the conviction that the Lord is calling us to observe the holy gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ by following the footsteps of Saint Francis of Assisi.

Minister:

The fraternity accepts your petition and is united with you in your prayer. May the Holy Spirit confirm in you the work he has begun.

❖ Homily

Those to be professed are seated and a homily is given.

❖ Questioning

After the homily, those to be professed stand. The celebrant questions them about their intent in these or similar words:

Celebrant:

**Beloved brother(s) and sister(s),
before this fraternity and the other members
of the People of God gathered here,
I ask you to express your will.**

Do you wish to embrace the gospel way of life by following the example and words of Saint Francis of Assisi, which is at the heart of the Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order?

Candidate(s):

Yes, this is what I want.

Celebrant:

You have been called to give witness to the kingdom of God and to build a more fraternal world based on the gospel, together with all people of goodwill.

Do you wish to be faithful to this vocation and to practice the spirit of service proper to Secular Franciscans?

Candidate(s):

Yes, this is what I want.

Celebrant:

You have been made members of the People of God by your baptism, and strengthened in confirmation by the new gift of the Spirit, in order to proclaim Christ by your life and your words.

Do you wish to bind yourself more closely to the Church, and to work intently to rebuild the ecclesial community and fulfill its mission among all people?

Candidate(s):

Yes, this is what I want.

Minister:

The local fraternity is a visible sign of the Church, a community of faith and love. Together with all the members, you now pledge yourselves to spend your efforts to make the fraternity a genuine ecclesial assembly and a living Franciscan community.

 **Prayer for Divine Grace****Celebrant:**

Let us pray. (Pause)

Lord, watch over these your servants.
May the Spirit of your love
penetrate their hearts,
so that your grace will strengthen them
to keep their commitment to the gospel life. We ask this
through Christ our Lord.

R: Amen.

 **Profession or Commitment to the Gospel Life**

While the celebrant remains at the presidential chair, the minister of the fraternity takes a suitable central place in the sanctuary.

After the prayer, two professed members of the fraternity stand beside the minister of the fraternity, acting as special witnesses.

Those to be professed approach the minister one at a time and read the formula of profession.

Candidate:

**I, N.N.,
by the grace of God,
renew my baptismal promises
and consecrate myself to the service of his Kingdom.
Therefore, in my secular state
I promise to live
all the days of my life
the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
in the Secular Franciscan Order
by observing its rule of life.
May the grace of the Holy Spirit,
the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary
and our holy father Saint Francis,
and the fraternal bonds of community
always be my help,
so that I may reach the goal
of perfect Christian love.**

Minister:

**Thanks be to God!
As the minister, I accept your profession and receive you
into this fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order.
Your membership in the fraternity
is a cause of great joy and hope
for all the members of the community
and for the whole Church.**

When all the candidates have made their profession, the celebrant speaks to them in these or similar words:

Celebrant:

I confirm your commitment in the name of the Church. Our Seraphic Father himself encourages you in the words of his Testament:

“And whoever observes these things, let him be blessed in heaven with the blessing of the Most High Father, and on earth with the blessing of His Beloved Son with the Most Holy Spirit, the Paraclete, and all the powers of heaven and with all the saints.”⁸



Presentation of Symbols of Profession

The minister presents a copy of the Sacred Scriptures to each of the newly professed and says in these or similar words:

Minister:

Christ, the gift of the Father’s love, is the way to him, the truth into which the Holy Spirit leads us, and the life which he has come to give abundantly. By your lifelong profession to go from gospel to life and life to the gospel, may you continually encounter the living and active person of Christ.

⁸ Saint Francis of Assisi, “The Testament” in *FA:ED* 1:127.

❖ Conclusion of the Rite of Profession

After all the presentations, the members present may come forward to congratulate each newly professed with an appropriate sign of peace and goodwill.

The rite is completed with the General Intercessions.

❖ Liturgy of the Eucharist

Communion Hymn:

At the end of the Mass, the Solemn Blessing may be similar in form to those given in the Ritual Mass for Religious Profession, or it may be the traditional blessing of Saint Francis.

Celebrant:

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

Rx: Amen.

**May his face shine upon you,
and be gracious to you.**

Rx: Amen.

**May he look upon you with kindness,
and give you his peace.**

Rx: Amen.

**May the Lord bless you,
+ the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.**

Rx: Amen.

Closing Hymn: