

The Companions of St. Luke



The Rituale
or
Special Rites of Membership

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General Rubrics

Blessings at all rites: *The blessing of habits, belts, rings, ETC., as well as the blessing of new members and members moving up in formation, renewing their annual profession and promises is to be done only by the Bishop Visitor or the Chaplin. Making first profession or life profession is to be done before the bishop visitor or his/her designate.*

Reception of Postulant

It is appropriate that this rite of Reception take place before Matins or Vespers during convocations; or, this rite may be offered virtually by electronic means during special Vespers scheduled by the Superior. In Convocation, the prospective Postulant sits apart from the Community until brought forward to be presented to the Superior by the Dean of Formation.

Naming and Clothing of Novices

The naming of Novice(s) is to be offered at Convocation only. It may precede or follow matins or vespers. This separation underlines the initiatory quality of the rite and its place in the discernment process, distinguishing it clearly from the commitment made in Simple or Solemn Profession. The habit and belt (and the veil) shall be placed on the altar the night before and remain there until the Clothing.

Annual Profession

The Rite of Annual Profession takes place during the Eucharist at convocation at the conclusion of the homily. When it is time for the Prayers of the People, a suitable petition for the newly Professed is added. The long belt(s) are to be placed on the altar the night before if possible and remain there during the Liturgy of the Word. After the homily the Superior brings the Novice(s) to the Bishop Visitor, who stands before the altar.

It is appropriate that the newly professed receive Communion before the rest of the Community. They may also bring up the Gifts at the Offertory.

Solemn Profession

The rite of Solemn Profession takes place at Convocation during the Eucharist, it is most suitable that the act of Profession occur at the time of the Offertory after the homily, just before the Peace. If the Professed chooses to have a ring, it is placed upon the altar the previous evening.

After the Entrance procession, the Professed-elect is accompanied to the altar by the Superior and who acts as witness. They stand before the Bishop Visitor. Canonically, the replies to the questions related to the petitions constitute the act of monastic Profession. The chart of Profession constitutes the written record of the same.

The Professed-elect reads the chart of Profession, and takes it to the altar where (s)he signs it. The Superior also signs it, and the newly-Professed shows it to those assembled before returning it to the altar where it remains throughout the Mass as a sign of his/her union with the self-sacrifice of Christ.

Jubilee

A monastic Jubilee is usually considered to be the 5th, 10th, 25th (Silver), 50th (Golden), or 60th (Diamond) Anniversary of Solemn Profession in Life Vows.

Novice Oblation

The Reception of Novice Oblates should take place before either Matins or Vespers at convocation; or it may be offered virtually by electronic means. At convocation, the prospective Novice Oblate(s) are brought before the Superior to be presented by the Brother or Sister in charge of Oblates.

Full Oblation

The Rite of Full Oblation should take place before Matins or Vespers during convocation. Those desiring to make their Full Oblation are brought before the Superior to be presented by the Brother or Sister in charge of Oblates. The habit(s) for the new Oblates have been placed on the altar before the rite.

Renewal of Oblation

The Annual Renewal of Full Oblation is offered during convocation during matins or Vespers; or virtually by electronic means during special Vespers scheduled by the Superior. The Oblate who wishes to renew his/her Oblation should first consult the Director of Oblation and the Superior. The Oblate is presented to the Superior and in convocation comes forward and stands before the Superior in front of the altar.

Reception of a Postulant

It is appropriate that this Rite of Reception take place either before Matins or Vespers.

Dean of Formation: Abbot/Abbess N. I present to you (**full Christian Name(s)**) who has/have asked to be received as (a) Postulant(s) into the Companions of Saint Luke.

Superior to each candidate: NAME(S), is that your intention?

Each Postulant candidate responds individually: It is, God being my helper.

Superior: I welcome you as a Postulant(s) with the Companions of St. Luke.

The new Postulant(s) bow their head(s) in prayer:

Superior: Pray for God's blessing as you begin your journey. May Almighty God bless you in his mercy, and make you always aware of his saving wisdom. And may God strengthen your faith with proof of his love, that you may persevere in good works.

All: Amen.

Chaplin: May God direct your steps to himself, that you may learn to walk in charity, humility, and peace, and may the blessing of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you forever. **Amen.**

To the new Postulant(s):

Superior to each new Postulant: NN, as directed by the Rule of our Holy Father Benedict, you are to be guided on this journey by a senior member of the community. I have therefore appointed **Sister/Brother NN** to be your Formation Guide during your period of training and discernment. Be open to her guidance and wisdom. Use their experience to learn to live into your Baptismal Vows as expressed by the Rule of St. Benedict. Be faithful in your reports, reflections, and in the *Opus Dei*, keeping in mind that (s)he is available and willing to help make the 'rough places plain' in your journey to Christ.

Each Postulant responds: Amen.

To the Formation Guide(s):

Superior: Dear **Sister(s)/Brother(s)** I charge you to be the Formation Guide(s) for our new Postulant(s) as they enter this new stage on *his/her/their* journey to Christ, following the teachings of Blessed Benedict. You are to be their servant, guide, and mentor, and to support them with your wisdom and example.

Formation Guide(s) say together: Amen.

In convocation the postulants return to their seats. The Divine Office begins.

Naming and Clothing of Novices

The Clothing and Naming of the new Novice is to be done at convocation, and is to begin following Matins or Vespers, after the final collect. The dismissal prayer is to be said at the end of the rite.

This separation underlines the initiatory quality of the rite and its place in the discernment process, distinguishing it clearly from the commitment made in Annual or Solemn Profession.

Presentation

Dean of Formation: Abbot/Abbess NN, I present to you (*each candidate is named*) who have/has completed their initial period of discernment as Postulants.

Questioning of each Candidate

Superior: My Brothers/Sisters, what do you ask?

Each Postulant responds individually: By the mercy of God and the Order and drawn by the love of God, I ask you to teach me to follow Christ with the Gospel for my guide, according to the Rule of Saint Benedict and the customs of the Companions of Saint Luke.

Superior: May the grace and mercy of God be with you.

The Admonition

A brief passage from the Rule may be read, either from the Prologue or elsewhere, and the Superior may add a few words to the Postulants about the meaning of this step in the discernment process. Then the Superior shall say:

You have begun to learn that the way to God is hard and difficult. If you choose to continue on this path you must truly seek God, showing eagerness for the Work of God, for obedience, and for the trials that accompany true discernment. You have read the Rule under which we live and under which you are choosing to serve. If you are determined to follow it faithfully, welcome. If not, you are free to depart. Is it your desire to persevere in your intention?

Each Postulant responds: It is, God being my helper.

Superior: My Brothers/Sisters, because Saint Benedict admonishes us that every time we begin a good work we should pray earnestly to the Lord to bring it to perfection, let us pray that what is not possible to us by our own efforts God's grace may supply to our Sisters.

Blessing of the Habit and Clothing of Novice(s)

Bishop Visitor: Our help is in the Name of the Lord.

All: The maker of heaven and earth.

Bishop Visitor: May the Name of the Lord be praised.

All: Both now and forever, Amen.

Bishop Visitor: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

The Bishop Visitor now blesses the habits (and veils) with Holy water

Bishop Visitor: Let us pray

O Lord Jesus Christ, you humbled yourself to be clothed in mortal flesh and to live among us. We ask you to bless ☩ these habits (and veils), that your servants, being clothed in this outward sign, may likewise be inwardly clothed in your humility. May it be to *them* a reminder of *their* baptism's call to new life in Christ in which *they* are being tested—to love God alone, and *their* Companions in Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit now and forever. **Amen.**

The habit is given to the new Novices and they are led to one side to put it on. A hymn or portion of a Psalm may be sung. They then return to the altar and kneel before the Bishop Visitor, who prays as follows:

Bishop Visitor: May God who, through the prompting of the Holy Spirit, has given you the desire to commit yourself to the monastic life, strengthen you in your faith and give you the grace of perseverance in your endeavor. May the same Spirit guide you to find your true vocation, reveal this path to you, and, if it be God's will, bring you in due time to the taking of Solemn Vows. May God reward you according to his promises, and bring us together into everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Novice(s) rise.

Naming of the new Novice(s)

The Superior announces the name by which each Novice is to be known in Community, and, if it is appropriate, says a brief word about the choice of name.

To each novice, the Superior announces: Be known henceforth among us as Brother/Sister N._____.

Superior to the new Novices: Dear Brothers/Sisters, as directed by the Rule of Saint Benedict, you are to be taught and guided on your journey by a senior selected by the Superior of this community. You will continue to be supported by the Formation Guide who has helped you during Postulancy during this period of training and discernment. Be open to their guidance and wisdom. Use their experience to learn to live the Rule. Be faithful in your reports, reflections, and in the *Opus Dei*, keeping in mind that they are available and willing to help make the 'rough places plain' in your journey to Christ.

To the Formation Guides: Dear /Sister(s) N /Brother(s) N I charge you to continue to be the Formation Guides for our new Novices as they begin their spiritual journey to Christ following the Blessed Benedict. You are to continue to be their servant, guide, and mentor, supporting them with your wisdom and example.

Closing Prayer and Blessing

Bishop Visitor: I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. *Ephesians 3:15-21*

May the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, come down upon you and remain with you forever. **Amen.**

Superior: Let us bless the Lord. *Alleluia.*

All: Thanks be to God, Alleluia, Alleluia

The Rite of Annual Profession

Initial (or first) Annual Profession is made to Christ. Therefore, it is appropriate that the Bishop Visitor, who represent the greater church, serve as the Presider of this rite. If (s)he is not available to serve as Presider, the CSL Chaplin will Preside.

The Rite of First Profession is offered during the Mass at convocation only. The ceremony shall begin after the homely.

The Superior presents the Annually Professed to the Bishop Visitor:

Superior: Bishop N._____, I present to you Brother(s)/Sister(s) N._____ who have/has completed *his/her/their* Novitiate and has petitioned the Community to be admitted to Annual Profession.

Examination of the Novices

Bishop Visitor: My Brother(s), (Sister(s), you have responded to God's call; what do you ask of God and God's holy Church?

Each Novice: The merciful love of God and the grace to be received as a Professed member of this Community, serving God among you in the Companions of Saint Luke of the Order of Saint Benedict.

Bishop Visitor: May God come to your assistance in this holy desire.

Let us pray.

The Novices kneel and a period of silent prayer follows. Then the Bishop says:

Bishop Visitor: We pray you, Lord, to give your servants a mind always to please you, and grant that *they* may run towards you with an undivided heart. May *they* serve you with a willing spirit, trusting in your merciful help and living in constant gratitude for your manifold gifts, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Bishop Visitor: My dear Sisters (& Brothers), you have already been consecrated to God's service by water and the Holy Spirit in Baptism. Are you now resolved to unite yourself more closely to God by the new bond of monastic Profession?

Each Novice: I am, God being my helper.

The Bishop, shows the Novices a copy of the Rule, and says:

Bishop Visitor: Behold the law under which you wish to serve. You have read and studied it and you have experienced its demands during the time of your Novitiate. Are you resolved to commit yourself to Stability, Obedience, and Conversion of Life according to the Rule of our holy father Benedict?

Each Novice: I am, God being my helper.

All: Thanks be to God.

Profession

The Novices rise and each reads the chart of Profession, below. The Novice takes it to the altar where (s)he signs it. The Superior also signs it, and it remains on the altar throughout the Mass.

Each Novice says individually: I, Brother/Sister N. _____, here in the sight of the holy angels, the Blessed Virgin Mary, our holy Father Saint Benedict, our patron Saint Luke, all the company of heaven, and in the presence of those here gathered, do freely and voluntarily promise myself to the service of our Lord Jesus Christ in God's one holy catholic and apostolic Church, by living into my Baptismal Vows as expressed by the Rule of St. Benedict. In doing, so I am professing today the threefold vows of Stability, Obedience, and *Conversatio Morum Suorum* to be renewed annually. I submit myself to the following of Christ under the teaching of the Gospels, The Rule of Saint Benedict as interpreted by this Community, and to Abbot/Abbess N and their legitimate successors as Superior and to my Brothers and Sisters in the Companions of Saint Luke. Lord, be my helper.

Bishop Visitor after each profession: Confirm, O Lord, what you have wrought in us.

All after all professions are made: From your Temple in Jerusalem, Alleluia.

Bishop Visitor blesses the belts with Holy Water and says Bless, O Lord, these belts $\frac{\text{I}}{\text{L}}$ Let them be for our Brothers/Sisters a symbol of the tie that binds *them* to your Son who became obedient even to death on the Cross. **Amen.**

(The newly Professed are girded with the long belt, and the short belt is laid aside. If a Sister who has chosen to wear the veil has been Professed, the veil is blessed as follows:

Bishop Visitor: Bless, O Lord, *this/these* veil(s) $\frac{\text{I}}{\text{L}}$ which proclaim(s) our Sister(s) as belonging entirely to Christ our Lord, and to be dedicated to the service of the Church.

Bishop Visitor: With gratitude to God, the giver of all good gifts, I accept your vows, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Superior then embraces the newly Professed.

Bishop Visitor concludes: I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. - *Ephesians 3:15-21*

All return to their seats.

Addition to the Prayers of the People

The Eucharist continues with the Prayers of the People, into which is inserted a petition for the newly Professed. The following collect concludes the Prayers:

Lord, hear the prayers of your people. In your goodness you have called *these* servant(s) of yours, N. _____ to follow Christ. Pour forth your Holy Spirit upon *them* so that *they* may fulfill the promises *they have* made this day. **Amen.**

Renewal of Annual Profession

Initial profession has been made to Christ. Therefore, it is appropriate that the Bishop Visitor who represents the greater church, serve as Presider of this Rite and reaffirm the annual Profession of the member(s).

Renewal of annual profession may be done either during the Mass at convocation or during virtual Vespers. If the Bishop Visitor cannot attend the service, the CSL Chaplin shall lead the Rite. The renewal of vows Rite shall begin after the homely.

The Superior presents the Annually Professed to the Bishop Visitor:

The Superior Says: Bishop NN, I present Sister(s) NN , Brother(s) NN

Bishop Visitor: My Brothers and Sisters, what do you desire?

Each Answers individually: I desire to renew the Vow of my Profession in this Community for another year.

Bishop Visitor: Do you freely and voluntarily renew your vow to the service of our Lord Jesus Christ and to the one holy catholic and apostolic Church?

Each person respond individually: I do.

Bishop Visitor: Will you continue to live under your Baptismal vows as expressed by the Rule of St. Benedict, and the threefold Benedictine Vows of Stability, Obedience and Conversion of Life?

Each Answers individually: I do.

Bishop Visitor: Will you continue to follow the teachings of the Gospels, and the constitution and Customary of the Companions of St. Luke?

Each Answers individually: I do.

Bishop Visitor: May Almighty God who gave you the grace and the will to renew your Profession, help you to remain true to your vow, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Bishop Visitor: The Almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you, perfect you in love and in holiness, and bring to fruition what has begun in you. **Amen.**

Bishop Visitor: Let us pray.

I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. *Ephesians 3:15-21*

May the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, come down upon you and remain with you forever. **Amen.**

The Rite of Solemn Profession

The Rite of Life Profession is offered during the Mass at convocation only. Life Profession is made to Christ. Therefore, it is appropriate that the Bishop Visitor, who represents the greater church, serve as the Presider of this rite. If (s)he is not available to serve as Presider, the CSL Chaplin will Preside. The rite shall begin after the homily.

Before the Mass begins, the Superior presents the candidates for life Profession to the Bishop Visitor.

Superior: Bishop N. _____, I present to you Brother(s)/Sister(s) N. _____ who has/have been elected for Solemn Profession in the Companions of Saint Luke of the Order of Saint Benedict.

The Petition

Bishop Visitor: My Brother(s)/Sister(s) **OR**, My Brother(s) and Sister(s), what do you ask of God and God's Holy Church?

Each answer individually: Called by the Spirit to follow Christ in the monastic life, I have learned in this Community how to seek God truly in fellowship with the Brothers and Sisters and in prayer. Today, after lengthy deliberation I desire to make my Solemn Profession of Stability, Obedience, and *Conversatio Morum Suorum* in the Companions of Saint Luke, devoting myself for the rest of my life in this world to the service of God and the Church.

Bishop Visitor: May God bless you in this holy and sacrificial endeavor. **Amen.**

The Mass begins, as all return to their seats.

After the homily, the whole community reaffirms their Baptismal Covenant

The Baptismal Covenant

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Father?

People I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

Celebrant Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.

Celebrant Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and
fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin,
repent and return to the Lord?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you strive for justice and peace among all people,
and respect the dignity of every human being?

People I will, with God's help.

Prayers for the Professed-Elect

The Celebrant then says to the congregation

Let us now pray for *these persons* who are about to make their Benedictine Life Profession.

A Person appointed leads the following petitions

Leader Deliver *them*, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Open *their hearts* to your grace and truth.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Fill *the* with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Keep *them* in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Teach *them* to love others in the power of the Spirit.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Send *them* into the world in witness to your love.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Bring *them* to the fullness of your peace and glory.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

The Celebrant says

Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory. Grant also O Lord that those taking vows of obedience, stability and *conversatio morum suorum* may continue to grow and live fully into these promises. All this we ask through your Son our Savior Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit now and forever. *Amen.*

After the reaffirmation of our Baptism Covenant, the professed-elect return to stand before the Bishop Visitor at the altar.

Bishop Visitor: My dear Sister(s)/Brother(s), you have already died to the world and been consecrated to God's service by water and the Holy Spirit in Baptism. Are you now resolved to unite yourself more closely to God by the bond of Solemn Monastic Profession?

Each Professed-elect says individually: I am, God being my helper.

All: Thanks be to God.

Bishop Visitor: My Brother/Sister, you have come among us to seek God. Now, in the company of your Brothers and Sisters you stand in God's presence before this sacred altar. Are you resolved to bind yourself to stability in the Companions of Saint Luke of the Order of Saint Benedict?

Each Professed-elect says individually: I am, God being my helper.

Bishop Visitor: Are you resolved to follow the Gospel teaching closely and to promise conversion of life according to the Rule of our holy father Benedict?

Each Professed-elect says individually: I am, God being my helper.

Bishop Visitor: Are you resolved to prefer nothing whatever to Christ and to obey in all things the commands of the Rule as interpreted by this Community and its Superior?

Each Professed-elect says individually: I am, God being my helper.

Bishop Visitor: May God bring to fulfillment what he has begun in you before the day of Christ Jesus our Lord.

Profession

Each Professed-elect reads his/her chart of Profession one-at-a-time, then takes it to the altar where (s)he signs it. It is signed by the Superior and the newly-professed shows it to those assembled before returning it to the altar.

I, Brother/Sister N. _____, here in the sight of the holy angels, the Blessed Virgin Mary, our holy Father Saint Benedict, our patron Saint Luke, all the company of heaven, and in the presence of those here gathered, do freely and voluntarily promise myself to the service of our Lord Jesus Christ in God's one holy catholic and apostolic Church, professing today the threefold vows of Stability, Obedience, and *Conversatio Morum Suorum* for the rest of my life in this world. I reaffirm my Baptismal Vows as expressed in the Rule of St. Benedict and I submit myself to the following of Christ under the teaching of the Gospels, The Rule of Saint Benedict as interpreted by this Community, and to Abbot/Abbess NN and their legitimate successors as Superior and to my Brothers and Sisters in the Companions of Saint Luke.

Lord, be my helper.

If physically able, the newly professed prostrates and is covered with the pall as a token of death to this world expressed in the Vows. If the newly professed is unable to prostrate and be covered by the pall, (s)he is to sit in a chair, wearing a Cuccula and the hood pulled over the head and face, and lean forward facing the floor. The Litany of Saints (q.v.) is sung, and the name of the patron saint of the Professed may be added if not already included.

The Litany of the Saints

(For the Professed)

Lord have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

Holy Mary, Mother of God

Pray for him/her/them

Holy Michael

Pray for him/her/them

Holy Raphael

Pray for him/her/them him

All you holy Angels of God

Pray for him/her/them

Holy John the Baptist

Pray for him/her/them

All you holy Patriarchs and Prophets

Pray for him/her/them

Holy Luke

Pray for him/her/them

Holy John

Pray for him/her/them

Holy Andrew

Pray for him/her/them

Holy Peter and Paul

Pray for him/her/them

Holy Mary Magdalene

Pray for him/her/them

All you holy Apostles and Evangelists

Pray for him/her/them

Holy Stephen

Pray for him/her/them

Holy Ignatius of Antioch

Pray for him/her/them

Holy Perpetua and Felicity

Pray for him/her/them

Holy Elizabeth of Russia

Pray for him/her/them

Holy Edith Stein

Pray for him/her/them

Holy Janani Luwum

Pray for him/her/them

Holy Oscar Romero

Pray for him/her/them

All you holy Martyrs old and new

Pray for him/her/them

Holy Father Benedict

Pray for him/her/them

Holy Mother Scholastica

Pray for him/her/them

Holy Augustine of Hippo

Pray for him/her/them

Holy Monica

Pray for him/her/them

Holy Maurus and Placid

Pray for him/her/them

Holy Augustine of Canterbury

Pray for him/her/them

Holy Boniface

Pray for him/her/them

Holy Walburga and Lioba

Pray for him/her/them

Holy Dunstan and Oswald

Pray for him/her/them

Holy Frideswide

Pray for him/her/them

Holy Gregory

Pray for him/her/them

Holy Antony of Egypt

Pray for him/her/them

Holy Gertrude

Pray for him/her/them

Holy Mechtild

Pray for him/her/them

Holy Francis and Clare

Pray for him/her/them

Holy Dominic

Pray for him/her/them

Holy Gilbert of Sempringham

Pray for him/her/them

Holy Robert of Molesmes and Stephen
Harding

Pray for him/her/them

Holy Bernard

Pray for him/her/them

Holy Aelred

Pray for him/her/them

Holy Thomas Merton

Pray for him/her/them

Holy Hilda

Pray for him/her/them

Holy Aidan

Pray for him/her/them

Holy Columba

Pray for him/her/them

Holy Brigid

Pray for him/her/them

Holy Bede

Pray for him/her/them

Holy Helena

Pray for him/her/them

Holy Teresa of Avila

Pray for him/her/them

Holy John of the Cross

Pray for him/her/them

Holy Julian of Norwich

Pray for him/her/them

Holy Cyril and Methodius

Pray for him/her/them

Holy Sergius of Radonezh

Pray for her him/her/them

Holy N. _____ (*insert name of patron
saint of person prayed for*)

Pray for him/her/them

All you holy men and women, Saints of God

Pray for her him/her/them

O Christ hear us.

O Christ, graciously hear us.

The Litany concludes with this or another suitable collect:

Bishop Visitor: Almighty and Ever living God, strengthen and sustain your servant(s) that (s)he may be [a] faithful follower(s) of Christ, and may *his/her* offering be brought to its fulfillment as may be most pleasing to you, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

Bishop Visitor: Lord, hear the prayers of your people, and grant your grace to your servant; May the fire of the Spirit purify every fault and set *him/her* ablaze with an ardent love. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The newly Professed rises, and after a short silence each stands before the altar. Those newly professed who wish to chant the Suscipe, may do so may either do so individually or as a chorus. Then those newly professed who wish to say the Suscipe follow afterwards.

The Suscipe Sung as follows:

Chant the prayer sentence three times, After the third time, chant the Gloria Patri

Brother/Sister

Lord, establish me according to your word, that I may

live: and do not dis-ap-point me in my hope. hope. Glory be

to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spi-rit: as it was

in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ev - er. A - men.

OR

The Suscipe is read as follows:

Read three times

Lord, establish me according to thy word, that I may live, and do not disappoint me in my hope.

Then:

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.

Bishop Visitor: Fulfill your work in us, O Lord; look down from your holy place and grant our prayer.

The Blessing of the Ring(s), (if any)

The ring(s) is/are blessed with holy water and incense, as follows:

Bishop Visitor: May this ring be blessed $\frac{1}{2}$ in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and may (s)he who wears it be ever faithful to the vows (s)he has made this day.

Amen.

The ring is bestowed with the words:

Bishop Visitor: Receive this ring as the symbol of your vows.

Keep faith with Christ, to whom you have given yourself this day, that you may enter into the joy of your Lord.

The Respond 'Earthly Kingdoms' is sung by a schola or the whole community

scold

Earthly kingdoms, and all the glory of the world I spurned,

for the love of my Lord and Sa-vior Je-sus Christ, Whom I have

seen, whom I have loved, in whom I have be-lieved. whom I

have de-sired. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia. My heart overflows with a song of joy;

I address my song to the king. Whom I have seen,

whom I have loved, in whom I have be-lieved, whom I have de-

sired. Glory be to the Father, and to the son,

and to the Holy Spir-it: as it was in the beginning, is now,

and shall be for ev - er. A - men.

An Exhortation and the Solemn Monastic Blessing

A reading from 03 from Paul's letter to the *Ephesians* 3:15-21:

I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Bishop Visitor: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Bishop Visitor: Let us pray.

Holy and gracious Father we ask that you bless † and sanctify the whole manner of life, both of soul and body, of your servant who in earnest love and devotion offers *himself/herself/themselves* to you.

Give *him/her/them*, through your Spirit, prudence and modesty, wisdom and kindness, gravity and gentleness, openness and freedom of heart. May *(s)he/they* be fervent in charity and love nothing apart from you. May *(s)he/they* live worthy of praise without seeking praise. May *(s)he/they* glorify you in holiness of body and purity of heart. May *(s)he/they* serve you in love and holy awe.

Be *his/her/their* honor, Lord, *his/her/their* joy and *his/her/their* whole desire, *his/her/their* comfort in trouble, *his/her/their* counsel in doubt, *his/her/their* defense in injury, *his/her/their* patience in adversity, *his/her/their* abundance in poverty, *his/her/their* food in fasting, *his/her/their* medicine in sickness.

May *(s)he/they* find all in you, whom *(s)he/they* seeks to love above all. May *(s)he/they* hold fast to what *(s)he* has professed, and at the end be counted among those faithful ones who await the coming of their Savior and enter into the eternal joy of his heavenly banquet. Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns forever and ever. **Amen.**

Lord God, look with love and mercy upon your servant(s) N._____. In your providence you have called him/her/them to follow Christ under the guidance of Saint Benedict.

Pour upon *him/her/them* the fullness of your life-giving Spirit, help *him/her/them* to fulfill in faith what you have enabled *him/her/them* to vow in joy, that *he/she/they* may persevere until life's end.

May *he/she/they* be rooted in humility; may *he/she/they* be filled with joy in Christ and your Gospel, and be enflamed with love for *his/her/their* Brothers and Sisters, and for your whole creation. May *(he/she/they)* build up your Church by the holiness of *his/her/their* life, advance the salvation of the world, and be a sign of your kingdom to come.

May *he/she/ they* receive in this life you promised hundredfold blessing, that at the judgment seat of Christ *(s)he/they* may find the joy of vows fulfilled and, made perfect in your love, rejoice to praise you in the Communion of Saints unto ages of ages. **Amen.**

May the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, come down upon you and remain with you forever. **Amen.**

The Superior then presents the newly Professed to the Community, and the Mass continues with the Peace.

Celebration of an Anniversary of Profession or Jubilee

A monastic Jubilee is usually considered to be the 5th, 10th, 25th (Silver), 50th (Golden), or 60th (Diamond) Anniversary of Solemn Profession in Life Vows. The Rite is offered at Convocation during the Mass.

After the Gospel at Mass, the Jubilarian comes forward to stand before the Superior and Bishop visitor before the altar.

Superior: My Brother/Sister, what do you ask?

Jubilarian: The mercy of God and the grace of the Jubilee.

The Superior then says a few words as a charge to the Jubilarian(s) and (s)he replies:

Jubilarian: I have full confidence in the Lord.

Superior: If you persevere to the end, you will assuredly be saved.

The Superior stands to one side and the Jubilarian (or each in turn if there are more than one) places his/her hand upon the altar renewing his/her Profession, saying:

Each Jubilarian says individually: _____ years ago, I, Brother/Sister N. _____, promised my stability, my conversion of life, and my obedience in accordance with the Rule of Saint Benedict and the Constitution and Customary of the Companions of Saint Luke, in the presence of Abbot/Abbess N. _____ who was then Superior. Today I renew and confirm this, my Profession, grateful and rejoicing for the past, humbly confident for the future, and relying on the mercy of God and the prayers of my Brothers and Sisters.

Bishop Visitor: May God grant you eternal life.

The Jubilarian then says or sings the Suscipe:

The Suscipe Sung as follows:

Chant the prayer sentence three times, After the third time, chant the Gloria Patri

Brother/Sister

Lord, establish me according to your word, that I may

live: and do not dis-ap-point me in my hope. hope. Glory be

to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spi-rit: as it was

in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ev - er. A - men.

OR

The Suscipe is read as follows:

Read three times

Lord, establish me according to thy word, that I may live, and do not disappoint me in my hope.

Then:

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.

The Bishop Visitor says the following prayer:

Bishop Visitor: Let us pray to the Lord

Bishop Visitor: Dear Brothers and Sisters, on behalf of God's servant, our *Brother/Sister* N. _____ that in his divine mercy he may lead *him/her* unharmed to the goal (s)*he* longs to attain.

Gracious God, slow to anger and abounding in love, you commanded our ancestors in the desert, to celebrate the jubilee at the appointed time, and to forgive all debts. You sent your Son to proclaim the good news to the poor, and to announce the acceptable year of the Lord. Grant to this, your servant, our *Brother/Sister* N. _____ perseverance in the observation of your commandments and of the Rule, and with your help that (s)*he* attain the joys of the heavenly Jerusalem and the everlasting jubilation of glory. **Amen.**

The Superior gives the Jubilarian a staff (bâculum) saying:

Superior: Receive this staff, symbol of the Cross of Christ, the support of your old age. From now on may you use it less to sustain your bodily strength than to obtain spiritual fortitude from our Lord Jesus Christ, who in the Gospel called us to himself saying: 'Come to me all you who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest.' May he be blessed forever.

Jubilarian: Amen. *The Jubilarian(s) return to their seats and the Mass continues*

Reception of Novice Oblate(s)

The Superior serves as the Presider and the Chaplin shall offer the blessings.

Presentation

Director of Oblates: Abbot/Abbess N._____, I present to you N._____(
baptismal names) who *have* asked to be received as [a] Novice Oblate(s) of the Companions of St. Luke of the Order of St. Benedict.

Questioning of the Candidate(s)

Superior: Do you wish to be received as a Novice Oblate of the Companions of St. Luke?

Each Candidate: I do, and with the help of God it is my desire to learn to live in accordance with the Rule of St. Benedict and the customs of the Companions of St. Luke.

Superior: May the grace and mercy of God be with you.

Admonition on the Rule of Saint Benedict

Superior: The Holy Rule of Saint Benedict was written in the spirit of the Gospel teachings of Christ and handed down to us through the centuries. Let it be a special guide for you in your life as a Christian and Novice Oblate of Saint Benedict. May the principles contained in it show you the true Way of Christ as taught us in the Gospels: love of God and love of our Brothers and Sisters.

May you therefore be more and more concerned about the needs of others, ready to give generously of yourself to the building up of true Christian fellowship with those around you: the strong and the weak, the wise and the unwise, the healthy and the sick, the rich and the poor, the joyous and those afflicted with misery and sorrow, the lovable and the unlovable, the secure and the insecure, those well cared for and those who are neglected, the young and the aged, those placed over you and those who are under your care, those of your faith and those not of your faith, whether in affairs of Church, business, government, or in any other area of life.

May your study of the Rule inspire you to work zealously in harmony with other where you are, for the good of humanity and the honor and glory of God. May God bless you and guide you in your striving to be a faithful Novice Oblate and witness of Christ and Saint Benedict, through the same Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Superior to the new Novice Oblate: Dear Sisters (& Brothers), as directed by the Rule of Saint Benedict, you are to be taught and guided on your journey by a Senior selected by the Superior of this community. Sister/Brother N. _____ as Director of Oblates to be your Formation Guide during your period of training and discernment. Be open to *his/her* guidance and wisdom. Use *his/her* experience to learn to live the Rule. Be faithful in your reports, reflections, and in the *Opus Dei*, keeping in mind that (s)he is available and willing to help make the 'rough places plain' in your journey to Christ.

To the Dean of Oblates: Dear Sister/Brother N. _____, I charge you to be the Formation Master for our new Novice Oblate(s) as *they* begin(s) *their* spiritual journey to Christ following the Blessed Benedict. You are to be *their* servant, guide, and mentor, supporting *them* with your wisdom and example.

Chaplin: May the blessing of Almighty God, $\mathbf{\text{IHS}}$ of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, come down upon you and remain with you forever.

All: Amen.

If at convocation, All return to their seats, the Formation Master directing the new Novice Oblate(s) to their place.

The Rite of Full Oblation

This rite is to be offered after either Matins or Vespers in Convocation only. The Superior is the Presider and the Chaplin shall offer the blessings.

Presentation

Dean of Oblates: Abbot/Abbess N. _____, I present to you N. (each called by baptismal name) who has asked to make his/her Full Oblation as an Oblate of Saint Benedict in the Companions of St. Luke.

Questioning of the Candidate(s)

Superior: Do you wish to make your Full Oblation as an Oblate of St. Benedict in the Companions of St. Luke?

Novice Oblate(s): I do, God being my helper.

Superior: May the grace and mercy of God be with you.

The Admonition

Superior: As a Novice Oblate you have had time to study the Rule of Saint Benedict and the Benedictine life as interpreted by the Constitution and Customary of the Companions of St. Luke. By now you should have a good understanding of the life of an Oblate and how it can govern and enrich your Christian life.

If you are still ready and willing to following this path, guided by the teachings of our holy Father Benedict as appropriate to your state in life, and are resolved to remain faithful and persevere in your holy resolution, you may now make your Full Oblation. If not, you may freely depart.

The Promises

The Superior questions each Novice Oblate in turn unless there is a large group, in which case they may answer together.

Superior: N. _____, do you offer yourself in the service of God and of humanity according to the Rule of Saint Benedict as interpreted by the Constitution and Customary of the Companions of St. Luke?

Novice Oblate responds individually: I do.

Superior: Will you strive to be faithful and to persevere in this holy resolution for the rest of your life?

Novice Oblate: I will, God being my helper.

Superior: Thanks be to God. Trusting in the help of God's grace, you may make your Full Oblation. As an Oblate in the Companions of St. Luke you will be known as Brother/Sister N. _____.

Naming of the new Oblate(s)

The Superior announces the name by which each new Oblate is to be known in Community, and, if it is appropriate, says a brief word about the choice of name.

The Act of Full Oblation

Each reads his/her Act of Oblation and signs the certificate.

I, Brother/Sister N. _____, do offer myself to Almighty God in the sight of the Blessed Virgin Mary, our holy Father Benedict, and all the angels and saints as an Oblate of the Companions of St. Luke. In so doing I promise to dedicate myself to the service of God and humanity according to my Baptismal Vows, the Rule of St. Benedict as interpreted by the Constitution and Customary of the Companions of St. Luke, as appropriate to my state in life.

Blessing of the Habit and Investiture

Chaplin: Our help is in the Name of the Lord.

All: The maker of heaven and earth.

Chaplin: May the Name of the Lord be praised.

All: Both now and forever, Amen.

Chaplin: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Chaplin: Let us pray

O Lord Jesus Christ, you humbled yourself to be clothed in mortal flesh and to live among us. We ask you to bless ☩ this Oblate habit, that your servant, being clothed in this outward sign, may likewise be inwardly clothed in your humility, who live and reign forever and ever. **Amen.**

Formal Acceptance of the new Oblate(s)

Superior: As Abbot/Abbess of this Community, I accept your Oblation and admit you as an Oblate of the Companions of St. Luke.

Chaplin: My God strengthen you in your faith and give you the grace of perseverance in your offering of yourself to serve God and humanity in accordance with the spirit of the Rule of St. Benedict and of this Community. May God reward you according to his promises, and bring us together into everlasting life. **Amen.**

May the blessing of Almighty God, ☩ of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, come down upon you and remain with you forever. **Amen.**

All return to their seats, the Director of Oblates directing the new Oblate(s) to their seats

The Renewal of Oblate Promises

This rite is to be offered after either Matins or Vespers in Convocation or after Vespers if offered virtually by electronic means. The Superior is the Presider and the Chaplin shall offer the blessings.

Superior: My Brother/Sister, what do you seek?

Oblate: To renew the offering of myself to God as an Oblate of the Companions of Saint Luke.

Superior: May the grace and mercy of God be with you.

Each Oblate: I, Brother/Sister N._____, do renew the offering of myself to Almighty God in the sight of the Blessed Virgin Mary, our holy Father Benedict, and all the angels and saints as an Oblate of the Companions of St. Luke. In so doing, I promise to dedicate myself to the service of God and humanity according my Baptismal Vows, to the Rule of St. Benedict as interpreted by the Constitution and Customary of the Companions of St. Luke, as appropriate to my state in life.

Chaplin: My God strengthen you in your faith and continue within you the grace of perseverance in your offering of yourself to serve God and humanity in accordance with the spirit of the Rule of St. Benedict and of this Community. May God reward you according to his promises, and bring us together into everlasting life. **Amen.**

May the blessing of Almighty God, $\mathbf{\text{I}}$ of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, come down upon you and remain with you forever. **Amen.**

At convocation, the Oblate returns to his/her place for the Office.