

## Naming and Clothing of Novices

*The Clothing and Naming of the new Novice is to be done at convocation and is to begin during either Matins or Vespers after the Magnificat.*

*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.

*The Superior continues:*

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