

Rite of Profession within the Mass

Before the Celebrant is about to begin, a member of the fraternity reads from the ambo.

Secular Franciscan: We are assembled as a community to take part in the Eucharistic Sacrifice. In this celebration of the Eucharist N.N. are (is) going to make their (his/her) profession of the Gospel life in the Secular Franciscan Order. In doing so, they (he/she) make(s) present again and renew(s) the promises of their (his/her) Baptism and the commitment of their (his/her) Confirmation.

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 (the one) 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 (a) new member(s) to the fraternity.

The permanent commitment to the Gospel life publicly proclaimed today during this celebration reminds us of something which is also made present every day in the Eucharist: After the example of Christ and in union with his own act of thanksgiving, we are to present ourselves before the Father as living sacrifices of praise given for the life of the world.

Entrance Rite

Minister and Candidate(s) may follow the Book of Gospels in the procession.

[Ritual of the Secular Franciscan Order, pp. 18 & 19.]

Liturgy of the Word

After the reading of the Gospel the Celebrant and the people sit. Minister and Formation Director go forward.

Director of Formation: Would the candidate(s) for profession in the Secular Franciscan Order please come forward, namely N.N.

Candidate: I am ready and willing or Present.

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

Candidate: We(I) ask to be admitted to profession of the Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order and to make a permanent commitment to the Gospel life. The experience during our(my) time of formation has strengthened us(me) in the conviction that the Lord is calling us(me) to observe the holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ by following the footsteps of St. 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.

The community acknowledges its assent with applause.

Homily

[*Ritual of the Secular Franciscan Order*, pp. 19 – 21.]

After the homily, questioning. [People go forward: Candidate(s), Minister, Formation Director, 2 witnesses and people presenting symbols.]

Celebrant: 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 St. Francis of Assisi, which are 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 (a) member(s) 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 yourselves (self) 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 (self) to spend your efforts to make the fraternity a genuine ecclesial assembly and a living Franciscan community.

Celebrant: Prayer for Divine Grace All: Amen

[*Ritual of the Secular Franciscan Order*, pp. 21 – 23.]

Profession or Commitment to the Gospel Life

Candidate approaches the Minister and puts his/her hands in the Minister's hands. Two professed members of the Fraternity stand beside the Minister of the Fraternity, acting as special witnesses.

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 St. Francis,

and the fraternal bonds of community

always be my help,

so that I may reach the goal

of perfect Christian love.

[Ritual of the Secular Franciscan Order, pp. 23 & 24.]

Minister:

Thanks be to God!

As Minister of this fraternity,

I accept your profession

and receive you into this fraternity of _____

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.

Candidate and Minister drop their hands.

Celebrant: I confirm your commitment in the name of the Church. Our seraphic father himself encourages you in the words of his Testament: “May whoever observes all this be filled in heaven with the blessing of the most high Father, and on earth with that of his beloved Son, together with the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, and all the powers of heaven and all the saints.” [*Ritual of the Secular Franciscan Order*, p. 24.]

Presentation of Symbols of Profession

Minister: (Formation Director presents Sacred Scripture): 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.

Person to present San Damiano Crucifix:

May you conform your thoughts and deeds to those of Christ and build a more fraternal and evangelical world by fulfilling your vocation as a “(brother) (sister) of penance.”

Person to present Candle (candle is optional):

By your profession you are the light of Christ in the world. Your light must shine before all so that they may see goodness in your acts and give praise to your heavenly Father.

Person to present Ring (ring is optional):

You have been made a living member of the Church in Baptism; you have been united more intimately with the Church by profession. Through this special covenant of union, may you be a faithful witness and instrument of her mission among all people.

Everyone returns to their seats for the Universal Prayer.

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Presentation of the gifts may include the Minister and the newly Professed.

Recessional

Minister and newly Professed may follow the servers out in procession.

[*Ritual of the Secular Franciscan Order*, pp. 25 & 26.]