

MISSAL
AND
RITUAL FOR PROFESSIONS

MISSIONARY SONS
OF THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

This edition of the Missal and Ritual for Professions
of the Missionary Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
was printed by

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CONGREGATIO DE CULTU DIVINO
ET DISCIPLINA SACRAMENTORUM

Prot. 2715/98/L

**CONGREGATIONIS MISSIONARIORUM
FILIORUM IMMACULATI CORDIS B.M.V.**

Instante Reverendo Patre Aquilino Bocos Merino, Congregationis Missionariorum Filiorum Immaculati Cordis B.M.V. Superiori Generali, litteris die 18 decembris 1998 datis, vigore facultatum a Summo Pontifice Ioanne Paulo II huic Congregationi tributarum, Calendarium proprium eiusdem Congregationis, prout in adiecto exstat exemplari, libenter confirmamus, ita ut ab omnibus, qui eo tenentur, in posterum servetur

In Calendario imprimendo mentio fiat de confirmatione ab Apostolica Sede concessa

Contrariis quibuslibet minime obstantibus.

Ex ædibus Congregationis de Cultu Divino et Disciplina Sacramentorum,
die 21 mensis decembris 1998.

+ G. M. Agnelo

(+ GERARDUS M. AGNELO)
Archiepiscopus a Secretis

V. Ferrara

(VINCENTIUS FERRARA)
Subsecretarius



CONGREGATIO DE CULTU DIVINO
ET DISCIPLINA SACRAMENTORUM

Prot. 2717/98/L

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FILIORUM IMMACULATI CORDIS B.M.V.**

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In textu imprimendo mentio fiat de confirmatione ab Apostolica Sede concessa. Eiusdem insuper textus impressi duo exemplaria ad hanc Congregationem transmittantur.

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Ex ædibus Congregationis de Cultu Divino et Disciplina Sacramentorum,
die 21 mensis decembris 1998.

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PRESENTATION

With joy and satisfaction I present to the Missionary Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (Claretian Missionaries) the liturgical texts proper to our Institute, approved by the Sacred Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments, December 21, 1998.

Through the work of the Holy Spirit our Congregation was born in the Church, in union with the people of God, we wish to remember, honor, petition and renew our commitment to follow Jesus and proclaim the Gospel. Through the Eucharist we unite ourselves to Christ our Lord, who proclaims words of life, offers himself for others, gives honor to the Father and unifies the Church. (Cf. CC 35)

It was judged best to publish in just one volume the Missal and the Ritual of Profession. These liturgical texts bring together the most important nuclei of our Claretian spirituality, which we must foment as required by our specific vocation. Let them be shared with others who feel animated by the same spirit, members of the Claretian family and those who collaborate with us in the transformation of the world according to God's plan.

The publication of this liturgical book proper to the Congregation is part of the 150th anniversary celebration of the founding of the Congregation. It is our hope that by means of these liturgical texts we may receive from God the strength necessary, so that our life in Christ continues to grow, and helps us foment the love for the apostolate which motivated St. Anthony Claret to give himself totally to announce the good news of the kingdom to the poor.

Aquilino Bocos Merino, C.M.F.
Superior General

Rome, April 4, 1999
Feast of the Resurrection

LITURGICAL CALENDAR OF THE MISSIONARY
SONS OF THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

MAY

22 Saint Joaquina of Vedruna, religious Memorial

JUNE

15 Saint Mary Michael of Blessed Sacrament, virgin Memorial

Saturday following Second Sunday after Pentecost
Immaculate Heart of Mary,
Titular and Patron of the Congregation Solemnity

JULY

16 Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Anniversary of the Founding of the Congregation Feast

AUGUST

13 Blessed Philip of Jesus Munárriz and companions, martyrs Memorial

OCTOBER

24 Saint Anthony Mary Claret, bishop and founder Solemnity

NOVEMBER

5 Commemoration of the deceased
of the Congregation, family and benefactors

MISSAL

May 22

SAINT JOAQUINA OF VEDRUNA, religious

Memorial

Common of Holy Men and Women: for religious

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Prov 31: 30, 28

The woman who fears the Lord is to be praised; her children rise up to praise her. (Alleluia)

OPENING PRAYER

Lord,
you gave the Church Saint Joaquina of Vedruna
for the Christian education of youth and the comfort of the sick.
Help us learn to imitate her example and devote our lives
to the loving service of our brothers and sisters.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,
accept these gifts with which we celebrate the love of your Son.
By the example of Saint Joaquina of Vedruna,
grant that we who participate in these mysteries
may love you above all things
and all our brothers and sisters for love of you.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Jn 15: 13

Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. (Alleluia)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord,
may this Eucharist increase your life in us, and by
our words and actions, like Saint Joaquina of Vedruna,
may we be a sign of your love to all around us and a light for all who see us.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

June 15

SAINT MARY MICHAEL OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT, Virgin

Memorial

Common of Virgins; or of Holy Men and Women: Religious.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Let us rejoice and shout for joy, because the Lord has favored this holy and glorious virgin with his love.

OPENING PRAYER

O God,
you love everyone and grant forgiveness to all;
awaken in us a spirit of generosity and love,
so that nourished and strengthened by the Eucharist,
we may, like Saint Mary Michael,
be moved to find you in the poorest of the poor
and in those who most need your protection.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,
receive the gifts we humbly offer you in memory of Saint Mary Michael,
and grant that, celebrating this mystery, free from sin,
we ourselves may be an offering pleasing in your eyes.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Jn 14: 21, 23

He who loves me will be loved by my Father. We will come to him and make our home with him.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Strengthened with the bread of heaven, we implore your goodness, Lord,
that by the example of Saint Mary Michael and the grace of this sacrament,
we may remain in your presence, kindled in the fire of your love.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Saturday following the second Sunday after Pentecost

IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

Solemnity

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

1 Sam 2: 1abd

My heart exults in the Lord, my strength is exalted in my God, for I rejoice in your salvation.

Or:

Cf. Sir 24: 25

In me is all grace of the way and of the truth, in me is all hope of life and of virtue.

OPENING PRAYER

Lord God,
you chose Mary to be the Mother of your Son and our Mother.
Grant that, by faithful dedication to her maternal Heart,
we may be more fully conformed with Christ and,
driven by his love,
devote ourselves more generously
to proclaim the Gospel to all peoples.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit
one God, for ever and ever.

Or:

O God,
you prepared the Heart of the Virgin Mary
to be a fitting home for your Holy Spirit.
By her prayers may we become temples and servants of your glory.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,
look with favor on the gifts we bring
on this feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
Grant that, in union with her,
we may faithfully cherish and continually ponder
the riches of the grace of her Son,
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Or:

Lord,
as we offer you this sacrifice of the spotless Lamb,
we ask you to kindle in our hearts the divine fire,
which burned in an indescribable manner
in the Heart of Mary ever Virgin.
Grant this through Christ our Lord.

PREFACE

V/. The Lord be with you.

R/. And also with you.

V/. Lift up your hearts.

R/. We lift them up to the Lord.

V/. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

R/. It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Father, it is our duty and salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
all powerful and living God, through Christ our Lord.

From all eternity you were pleased to decree
that the Blessed Virgin Mary should be joined in a unique way
with Christ your Son in the work of salvation.

Wholeheartedly embracing your saving will,
she received your Word and his teaching with joy,
and kept them faithfully in her heart.

Bowing to your holy will,
she stood at the altar of the cross,
where a sword of sorrow pierced her heart
as she lovingly consented to the sacrifice of the Victim she had borne.

Now, taken up body and soul into heaven,
she still watches over us,
the brothers and sisters of her Son,
with a mother's love,
consoling us in our difficulties and dangers,
and guiding us toward our heavenly home.

We praise you, Lord, with all the angels and saints,
as we join in their unending hymn of praise:

Holy, Holy, Holy....

Or:

Father, all powerful and ever living God,
it is our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks
through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ.

You gave to the Blessed Virgin a wise and docile heart,
always ready to fulfill your will;
a unique and humble heart,
to engrave on it the law of the new covenant,
a heart humble and clean,
made worthy to virginally conceive your Son
and prepared to contemplate you for eternity;
an unselfish heart to be close to the needy
and to bring them the Word of salvation;
a firm heart ready to endure with fortitude the sword of sorrow
and await, filled with faith, the resurrection of your Son.

And so, filled with joy, we join the angels proclaiming your glory.

Holy, Holy, Holy....

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Cf. Lk 11: 27b, 28b

Blessed is the womb that bore you. Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord,
we are renewed with the sacraments of salvation.
May we who venerate Mary, Virgin and Mother,
so imitate her faith and love,
that we may be made worthy to be called and be her sons,
and become truly like Christ,
the Son of your love.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

SOLEMN BLESSING

May the Father of everlasting glory,
who chose the Heart of the Virgin Mary
to be a worthy dwelling place of the Holy Spirit,
fill you with his continuous blessing.

R/. Amen

May the Lord Jesus,
who took human nature in the womb of the Virgin Mary,

so that his most holy humanity
be a perennial fountain of salvation for those who believe in him,
grant us to be holy and pure in his presence.

R/. Amen

May the Holy Spirit,
who overshadowed the Blessed Virgin Mary
to made her a living temple of grace and holiness,
fill you with joy and strength,
that you may share the Word of God with your brothers and sisters.

R/. Amen

May the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit, descend upon you and remain with you always.

R/. Amen

July 16

**OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL
ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE CONGREGATION**

Feast

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Lk 1: 48a; Prov 31: 28a

The Lord has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden. Her children rise up and call her blessed.

OPENING PRAYER

Lord our God,
as we honor today the memory of the
Blessed Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel and celebrate the beginning
of the Congregation of Missionaries founded by Saint Anthony Mary Claret,
confirm your servants in their consecration
and let their apostolic labors bear fruit.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Oh God,
look with favor upon these gifts we place on your altar.
Grant that we who celebrate this feast
of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel
may faithfully dedicate ourselves to the mission we have received.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

PREFACE

The preface may be taken from the common of the Blessed Virgin Mary, or the feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, or the following:

V/. The Lord be with you.
R/. And also with you.

V/. Lift up your hearts.
R/. We lift them up to the Lord.

V/. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
R/. It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Father, it is our duty and salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
all powerful and living God,
and duly praise you on this feast
in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Accepting your Word
with a pure heart, she merited to conceive it in her virginal womb,
and giving birth to your Son, she prepared the birth of the Church.
Witnessing your divine love at the foot of the cross,
she accepted us as her children,
born to supernatural life through the death of Jesus.

Awaiting the Spirit at Pentecost, united in prayer with the disciples,
she became the model of the Church suppliant.
After her assumption into heaven,
she accompanies the pilgrim Church with maternal love,
and protects its journey to the heavenly kingdom
until the glorious coming of the Lord.

Now, with the saints and all the angels
we praise you forever.

Holy, Holy, Holy...

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Lk 1: 45

Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord,
nourished by the sacraments of salvation,
we ask that our Congregation,
moved by the spirit of Saint Anthony Mary Claret,
may be devoted with renewed fidelity to the service of your Gospel.
Grant this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

August 13

**BLESSED PHILIP OF JESUS MUNÁRRIZ
AND COMPANIONS, Martyrs**

Memorial

Common of Martyrs

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Rev 12: 11

These are saints who have conquered by the blood of the Lamb. They loved not their lives even unto death; thus they are united with Christ forever.

OPENING PRAYER

God our Father,
you gave Philip of Jesus Munárriz and his companions the gift of fidelity to their missionary vocation by following Christ to martyrdom, and made them witnesses to perfect charity in forgiving their persecutors. Grant us through their intercession the grace to persevere steadfastly in faith and in sincere charity, that we may love Christ in all our brothers and sisters. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord God,
as we remember the martyrdom of Blessed Philip of Jesus and his companions,
grant that we may fittingly announce the death of your Son
who not only encouraged by word those who would be his witnesses,
but preceded them by his example.
Through Christ Our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

2 Tim 2: 11-12

If we have died with Christ, we shall also live with him; if we endure, we shall also reign with him.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord God,
having participated in these heavenly gifts, we humbly ask that, as with the Blessed Martyrs, Philip of Jesus and his companions, you may engrave in our hearts the image of a loving and suffering Christ, and let us always enjoy true peace.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

October 24

SAINT ANTHONY MARY CLARET
Bishop and Founder of the Congregation

Solemnity

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Is 61: 1

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good tidings to the afflicted; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives.

OPENING PRAYER

O God,
you endowed your bishop, Anthony Mary Claret,
with outstanding love and endurance to preach the Gospel to the poor,
and you called him to be the father of new apostolic families in the Church.
Grant us, through his intercession, the grace to seek your will in all things,
and to work tirelessly to gain new brothers and sisters for Christ.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Or:

Lord our God,
you chose Saint Anthony Mary Claret to be the founder of our Congregation.
You set him afire with your love, so that he welcomed work,
patiently accepted slander and happily embraced sufferings.
In your mercy grant that, holding firm to his teaching and example,
we may proclaim your glory to the whole world,
and seek with zealous care the salvation of all peoples.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord, we offer you these gifts,
and we ask that your Holy Spirit fill our hearts
with the same apostolic zeal that moved Saint Anthony Mary Claret

to sacrifice himself for you and his people.
Grant this through Christ our Lord.

PREFACE

V/. The Lord be with you.

R/. And also with you.

V/. Lift up your hearts.

R/. We lift them up to the Lord.

V/. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

R/. It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Father, all powerful and living God,
it is our duty and salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks
through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ.

To continue the work of salvation in the Church,
you gave us Saint Anthony Mary Claret, a pastor and missionary impelled by love,
and made him founder of new apostolic families
who are driven by the same spirit to follow and imitate Christ,
and to work incessantly and solely for your greater glory and the salvation of all.

We join the angels and saints as we sing their unending hymn of praise.

Holy, Holy, Holy...

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Gal 2: 20

It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; who loved me and gave himself for me.

Or:

My desire is to depart and be with Christ.

Phil 1: 23

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God,
may the sacraments we have received
increase in us the faith which the Apostles preached
and which Saint Anthony Mary Claret earnestly spread.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Or:

Lord,
strengthened by your sacraments and supported by your grace,
in imitation of our father founder, Saint Anthony Mary Claret,
may we be witnesses to your saving Word in all the world.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

SOLEMN BLESSING

May God, the fountain of all holiness,
on this solemn feast of Saint Anthony Mary Claret,
grant you grace to live joyfully the vocation to which you have been called.

R/. Amen

May God who enriched you with the Word, and the life of Saint Anthony Mary Claret,
help you to remain faithful in God's service and in the service of others.

R/. Amen

May God who called you to participate in this Eucharist
enrich you with the gifts of faith and charity,
and call you one day to be reunited with your brothers and sisters already in heavenly joy.

R/. Amen

May the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit, descend upon you and remain with you always.

November 5

**MASS FOR THE DEAD
COMMEMORATION FOR MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION,
FAMILY AND BENEFACTORS**

When the 5th is a Sunday, this commemoration is moved to the next day. The following texts can be used when a community wishes to remember our deceased. Texts may be taken from the Roman Missal and Lectionary, or the following.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Rom 8: 11

God who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to our mortal bodies through his Spirit which dwells in us.

Or:

Rev 14: 13

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord; may they rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them.

OPENING PRAYER

O God,
through the paschal mystery of your Son,
you keep alive in us the hope of our resurrection.
We humbly ask that those who dedicated their lives to proclaiming the Gospel,
and all who have participated in our Claretian fraternity,
may reach the joy of eternal happiness.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,
accept the gifts we offer in memory of our deceased brothers and sisters,
and bring them to eternal happiness.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Mt 25: 35

Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

Or:

Jn 11: 25-26

I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourished with the Body and Blood of your Son,
we ask you, Lord,
that those who devoutly died in our Claretian Family,
and those of our family, friends and benefactors,
purified by the sacraments they received here on earth,
may participate in eternal salvation.
We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

RITUAL MASS FOR RELIGIOUS PROFESSION

All may be taken from the Missal and Lectionary, or from the following antiphons and prayers:

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Jn 15: 16

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide.

Or:

Cf. Ps 40: 8-10

Hear I am Lord, I delight to do thy will; your law is within my heart. I will proclaim your salvation to the great assembly.

OPENING PRAYER

O God,
the author and giver of vocation,
may these, our brothers, generously respond
to your call to follow your Son Jesus Christ,
and consecrate their lives to you. Aflame with charity,
as was Saint Anthony Claret, may they be a visible sign
that you are the one true God, and bring to all the message of salvation.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Accept, O Lord,
the offerings placed on your altar
along with the generous surrender
of these your servants, who today
by their religious profession
consecrate themselves to you
and your service in apostolic ministry.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

PREFACE

V/. The Lord be with you.

R/. And also with you.

V/. Lift up your hearts.

R/. We lift them up to the Lord.

V/. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

R/. It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Father, it is our duty and salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
all powerful and living God, through Christ our Lord.
We celebrate your admirable providence
manifested in your servants
in whom you planted the desire to follow Christ
more closely, in the footsteps of Saint Anthony Mary Claret.

You ceaselessly call them to holiness
and to the ministry of the Word.
You give them a foretaste of the goods of the kingdom to come.

Now, with the saints and all the angels
we praise you forever.

Holy, Holy, Holy...

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Col 1: 24

In my flesh I complete what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, the Church.

Or:

Ps 133: 1

Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord,
may the reception of this sacrament
strengthen our brothers in their vocation,
and by offering themselves to the special service of the Immaculate Heart of Mary,
may they arrive at perfect charity in their missionary life.
Through Christ our Lord.

25th OR 50th ANNIVERSARY OF RELIGIOUS PROFESSION

This mass may be celebrated when permitted by liturgical norms. Texts may be taken from the ritual mass for religious profession; or the following prayers (A) when the one celebrating the anniversary presides, or (B) when someone other than the celebrant celebrates his anniversary.

A

When the one celebrating the anniversary of his religious profession presides at the celebration, the following prayers can be used:

OPENING PRAYER

God of goodness,
we give you thanks because today you allow me to celebrate
the twenty-fifth (fiftieth) anniversary of my life as a Claretian missionary;
with joy I renew my consecration to you
and the giving of myself in special service to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.
In imitation of Saint Anthony Mary Claret,
set me aflame with the fire of love,
that I may seek always and only your greater glory and salvation of all peoples.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

All-powerful God,
together with these gifts
accept the offering which today I renew and confirm.
Faithful to the spirit of Saint Anthony Mary Claret,
give me the grace to continue to serve you and the Church.
Through Christ our Lord.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord,
refreshed by the Body and Blood of your Son,
we ask on the anniversary of my religious profession,
that I may persevere in my Claretian vocation.
Through Christ our Lord.

B

When he who presides is not the one who celebrates the anniversary of profession the following prayers are suggested.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Ps 40: 8

I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart.

OPENING PRAYER

God of goodness,
we give you thanks because today our brother N.
celebrates his twenty-fifth (fiftieth) anniversary as a Claretian missionary.
With joy he renews his consecration to you
and the giving of himself in special service to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.
Renew in him the fire of love, so that imitating that of Saint Anthony Claret,
he may seek always and only your greater glory and the salvation of all peoples.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

All-powerful God,
together with these gifts
accept the offering which today our brother renews and confirms.
Give him the grace to be faithful to the spirit of Saint Anthony Mary Claret
and to continue to serve you and the Church.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Mk 3: 35

Whoever does the will of God is my brother, and sister, and mother.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord,
refreshed by the Body and Blood of your Son,
we ask that our brother N.,
who celebrates the anniversary of his religious profession,
may persevere in his Claretian vocation.
Through Christ our Lord.

VOTIVE MASS OF THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

This mass may be celebrated on Saturdays when permitted by liturgical norms.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Jdt 13: 18

The Lord God has blessed you, O Virgin Mary, above all other women on earth; he has so exalted your name that your praises shall never fade from our lips.

OPENING PRAYER

Lord God,
grant that we may imitate
the Blessed Virgin Mary's cooperation in your Son's work of salvation,
and that under the guidance of the Holy Spirit,
we may grow in faith, hope and love,
and be dedicated to the ministry of salvation of all peoples.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Or:

O Lord,
may we meditate on your Word,
which was incarnate in the womb of the Virgin Mary,
and conserve it in our hearts
so as to be faithful servants
in the proclamation of the Good News of the Kingdom.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,
we offer these gifts,
as we celebrate the memory of Mary ever virgin,
who offered your Son at the foot of the cross.
Grant that the offering of our lives may be ever pleasing to you.
We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Cf. Lk 1: 48

God has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden. For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God,
strengthened by this sacrament
may we who venerate the Immaculate Virgin Mary,
cooperate with her maternal vocation in the apostolic mission.
Grant this through Christ our Lord.

MASSES FOR DIVERSE OCCASIONS

1

TO STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY LIFE

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Jn 17: 21

May all be one; even as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

Or:

Ps 133: 1

Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity.

OPENING PRAYER

Lord our God,

we ask you to unite in one heart those who share the spirit of Saint Anthony Mary Claret, so that united in mutual love, we may be witnesses of your love for all.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,

receive the gifts we bring you. Grant that by this sacrifice, the love you want to see in us may always grow

and build our community. Grant this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Jn 15: 12

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God,

may the sacrament of unity and love with which you have graciously nourished us, unite us more intimately with you, and with our brothers in community,

so that the world may believe in your Son and through him find salvation.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

FOR CLARETIAN VOCATIONS

All may be taken from the Roman Missal and Lectionary: For Priestly Vocations, or for Religious Vocations, or the following prayers and antiphons may be used.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Mt 9: 37-38

The Lord said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

Or:

Mt 4: 19

And the Lord said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."

OPENING PRAYER

Lord,
 you called the Apostles to become fishers of men.
 Deign to call new members to our Congregation
 to be salt of the earth and light to the world,
 laboring everywhere with the charity
 that impelled your servant Anthony Mary Claret.
 We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
 who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
 one God, for ever and ever.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,
 be pleased with the prayers and gifts we present. May we who enjoy Claretian fraternity
 remain faithful to our missionary vocation. Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Mt 5: 14, 16

You are the light of the world. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works
 and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Or:

Jn 15: 16

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that
 your fruit should abide.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord God,

having participated in the sacrament of your eternal love,
we ask you, O Lord, to raise up abundant vocations for our Congregation,
and to infuse in those called the desire for evangelical perfection,
so that you may enrich your Church with their constant apostolic service
and give them the grace to remain ever faithful to your call.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

LECTIONARY

May 22

SAINT JOAQUINA OF VEDRUNA, religious

Memorial

The readings may be chosen from the corresponding day or from the Common of Holy Men and Women: for religious, or from the following:

FIRST READING

Outside Easter Season

It is the wise woman whom the Lord will praise.

A reading from the Book of Proverbs 31: 10-13, 19-20, 30-31

A good wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels. The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain. She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life. She seeks wool and flax, and works with willing hands. She puts her hands to the distaff, and her hands hold the spindle. She opens her hand to the poor, and reaches out her hands to the needy. Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates.

During Easter Season

Happy are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb.

A reading from the Book of Revelation 19: 1, 5-9

I, John, heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, crying, "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God,

And from the throne came a voice crying, "Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, small and great." Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty thunder peals, crying, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; it was granted her to be clothed with fine linen, bright and pure" -- for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb."

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 112: 1, 2, 3-4, 5, 7, 8, 9

V./ Happy are they who fear the Lord.
or Alleluia.

R./ Happy are they who fear the Lord.

V./ Blessed is the man who fears the LORD,
who greatly delights in his commandments!
His descendants will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.

R./ Happy are they who fear the Lord.

V./ Wealth and riches are in his house;
and his righteousness endures for ever.
Light rises in the darkness for the upright;
the LORD is gracious, merciful, and righteous.

R./ Happy are they who fear the Lord.

V./ It is well with the man who deals generously and lends,
who conducts his affairs with justice.
For the righteous will never be moved;
he will be remembered for ever.

R./ Happy are they who fear the Lord.

V./ He is not afraid of evil tidings;
his heart is firm, trusting in the LORD.
His heart is steady, he will not be afraid,
until he sees his desire on his adversaries.

R./ Happy are they who fear the Lord.

V./ He has distributed freely,
he has given to the poor;
his righteousness endures for ever;
his horn is exalted in honor.

R./ Happy are they who fear the Lord.

ALLELUIA

Mt 11: 25

I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to babes;

GOSPEL

Whoever wishes to be first will be the servant of all.

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

9: 33-37

And they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you discussing on the way?" But they were silent; for on the way the disciples had discussed with one another who was the greatest. And he sat down and called the twelve; and he said to them, "If any one would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all." And he took a child, and put him in the midst of them; and taking him in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me; and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me."

June 15

SAINT MARY MICHAEL OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT, Virgin

Memorial

The readings may be taken from the corresponding day, or from the Common of Virgins, or of Holy Men and Women: for religious, or from the following:

FIRST READING

We should lay down our lives for our brothers

A reading from the first Letter of John

3: 14-18

We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death. Any one who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But if any one has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or speech but in deed and in truth.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 23: 1-3a. 3b-4, 5, 6

V/. The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

R/. The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

V/. The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want;

he makes me lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul.

R/. The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want

V/. He leads me in paths

of righteousness for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley

of the shadow of death,

I fear no evil; for you are with me;

your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

R/. The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want

V/. You prepare a table before me

in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil,

my cup overflows.

R/. The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want

V/. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life;
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

R/. The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want

ALLELUIA

Cf. Jn 6: 54

He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.

GOSPEL

My flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

6: 47-58

Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that a man may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if any one eats of this bread, he will live for ever; and the bread which I shall give for the life of the world is my flesh.

"The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?"

So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in you; he who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.

For my flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so he who eats me will live because of me. This is the bread which came down from heaven, not such as the fathers ate and died; he who eats this bread will live for ever."

Saturday following the Second Sunday after Pentecost

IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

Solemnity

Readings may be taken from the Common of the Blessed Virgin, or the following:

FIRST READING

I will rejoice in my God.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

61: 9-11

Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring in the midst of the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

1 Sam 2: 1, 4-5, 6-7, 8

V/. My heart rejoices in the Lord, my Savior.

R./ My heart rejoices in the Lord, my Savior.

V/. Hannah also prayed and said,
"My heart exults in the LORD;
my strength is exalted in the LORD.
My mouth derides my enemies,
because I rejoice in thy salvation.

R./ My heart rejoices in the Lord, my Savior.

V/. The bows of the mighty are broken,
but the feeble gird on strength.
Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread,
but those who were hungry have ceased to hunger.
The barren has borne seven,
but she who has many children is forlorn.

R./ My heart rejoices in the Lord, my Savior.

V/. The LORD kills and brings to life;
he brings down to Sheol and raises up.

The LORD makes poor and makes rich;
he brings low, he also exalts.

R./ My heart rejoices in the Lord, my Savior.

V/. He raises up the poor from the dust;
he lifts the needy from the ash heap,
to make them sit with princes and inherit a seat of honor.

R./ My heart rejoices in the Lord, my Savior.

Or:

Rejoice, daughter of Zion, for I am coming.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Zechariah 2: 10-13

Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion; for behold, I come and I will dwell in the midst of you, says the LORD. And many nations shall join themselves to the LORD in that day, and shall be my people; and I will dwell in the midst of you, and you shall know that the LORD of hosts has sent me to you. And the LORD will inherit Judah as his portion in the holy land, and will again choose Jerusalem." Be silent, all flesh, before the LORD; for he has roused himself from his holy dwelling.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Lk 1: 46-47, 48-49, 50-51, 52-53, 54-55

V./ The Almighty has done great things for me
and holy is his name.

R./ The Almighty has done great things for me
and holy is his name.

V./ Mary said:

"My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

R./ The Almighty has done great things for me
and holy is his name.

V./ for he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden.

For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

R./ The Almighty has done great things for me
and holy is his name.

V./ And his mercy is on those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm, he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts,

R./ The Almighty has done great things for me

and holy is his name.

V./ he has put down the mighty from their thrones, and exalted those of low degree; he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away.

R./ The Almighty has done great things for me
and holy is his name.

V./ He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his posterity for ever."

R./ The Almighty has done great things for me
and holy is his name.

SECOND READING

God sent his Son, born of a woman.

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Galatians

4: 4-7

Brothers and sisters:

But when the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son, born of a woman,
born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law,
so that we might receive adoption as sons.
And because you are sons,
God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba, Father!"
So through God you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son then an heir.

Or:

All these devoted themselves with one accord to prayer.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

1: 12-14

After Jesus had been taken up to heaven the apostles
returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet,
which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away;
and when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying,
Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew,
James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James.
All these with one accord devoted themselves to prayer,
together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

ALLELUIA

Cf. Lk 2: 19

Blessed is the Virgin Mary who kept the word, and pondered it in her heart.

Or:

Blessed are you, O Virgin Mary, who carried in your womb the Son of the Eternal Father.

Or:

Jn 19: 27

"Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

GOSPEL

His parents found Jesus sitting in the midst of the teachers.

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

2: 41-52

Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom; and when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, but supposing him to be in the company they went a day's journey, and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintances; and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions; and all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. And when they saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been looking for you anxiously." And he said to them, "How is it that you sought me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" And they did not understand the saying which he spoke to them. And he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with God and man.

Or:

Blessed is the womb that bore you.

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

11: 27-28

As he said this, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, "Blessed is the womb that bore you and the breasts that you sucked!" But he said, "Blessed rather are they who hear the word of God and keep it!"

Or:

There is your son. There is your mother.

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

19: 25-27

Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved standing near, He said to his mother, "Woman, behold your son!"

Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!"
And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

July 16

**OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL
ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDATION OF THE CONGREGATION**

Feast

Readings may be taken from the Common of the Blessed Virgin, or the following:

FIRST READING

Rejoice, daughter of Zion, for I am coming.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Zechariah Zec 2: 10-13

Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion; for behold, I come and I will dwell in the midst of you, says the Lord. And many nations shall join themselves to the Lord in that day, and shall be my people, and I will dwell in the midst of you, and you shall know that the Lord of hosts has sent me to you. And the Lord will inherit Judah as his portion in the holy land, and will again choose Jerusalem; Be silent, all flesh, before the Lord; for he has roused himself from his holy dwelling.

Or:

God chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world.

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians 1: 3-6, 11-12

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed on us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. He destined us in love to be his sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace which he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him, according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to the council of his will, we who first hoped in Christ has been destined and appointed to live for the praise of his glory.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 23: 1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6

V/. The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

R/. The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

V/. The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want;
he makes me lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul.

R/. The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want

V/. He leads me in paths

of righteousness for his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death,
I fear no evil; for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

R/. The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want

V/. You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil,
my cup overflows.

R/. The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want

V/. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life;
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

R/. The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want

ALLELUIA

Lk 11: 28

Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it.

Or:

Lk 1: 45

Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment in what was spoken to her from the Lord.

GOSPEL

Stretching out his hands toward the disciples, he said: Here are my mother and my brethren.

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 12: 46-50

While he was still speaking to the people, behold, his mother and his brethren stood outside asking to speak to him. But he replied to the man who spoke to him, "Who is my mother and who is my brethren?" And stretching out his hand towards his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brethren! For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother, and sister, and mother."

Or:

He who is mighty has done great things for me; he has exalted the humble.

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 1: 39-56

In those day Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to the city of Judah,

and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the child leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and she exclaimed with a loud cry,

“Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb!

And why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the child in my womb leaped for joy.

And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment on what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

For he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden. For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed;

for he who is mighty has done great things for me and holy is his name.

And his mercy is on those who fear him from generation to generation.

“He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts, he has put down the mighty from their thrones, and exalted those of low degree;

he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away.

He has helped his servant Israel in remembrance of his mercy,

as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and his posterity for ever.”

And Mary remained with her about three months, and returned to her home.

August 13

BLESSED PHILIP OF JESUS MUNÁRRIZ AND COMPANIONS, Martyrs

Memorial

Readings may be taken from the Common of Martyrs, or the following:

FIRST READING

We carry in our bodies the death and life of Jesus.

A reading from the second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

4: 7-15

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For while we live we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you. Since we have the same spirit of faith as he had who wrote, "I believed, and so I spoke," we too believe, and so we speak, knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 34: 2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9

V/. The Lord delivered me from all my fears.

R/. The Lord delivered me from all my fears.

V/. I will bless the LORD at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
My soul makes its boast in the LORD;
let the afflicted hear and be glad.

R/. The Lord delivered me from all my fears.

V/. O magnify the LORD with me,
and let us exalt his name together!
I sought the LORD, and he answered me,
and delivered me from all my fears.

R/. The Lord delivered me from all my fears.

V/. Look to him, and be radiant;
so your faces shall never be ashamed.
This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him,

and saved him out of all his troubles.

R/. The Lord delivered me from all my fears.

V/. The angel of the LORD encamps
around those who fear him,
and delivers them.

O taste and see that the LORD is good!
Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!

R/. The Lord delivered me from all my fears.

ALLELUIA

We praise you God; we acknowledge you as Lord;
the radiant army of martyrs acclaims you.

GOSPEL

You do not belong to the world because I have chosen you out of it.

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

15: 18-21

Jesus said to his disciples:

"If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you; if they kept my word, they will keep yours also. But all this they will do to you on my account, because they do not know him who sent me."

October 24

SAINT ANTHONY MARY CLARET
Bishop and Founder of the Congregation

Solemnity

Readings may be taken from the Common of Pastors (Missionaries), or the following:

FIRST READING

*The Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor
and to pour out on them the oil of gladness.*

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

61: 1-6

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good tidings to the afflicted; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the LORD'S favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to grant to those who mourn in Zion -- to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. Aliens shall stand and feed your flocks, foreigners shall be your plowmen and vinedressers; but you shall be called the priests of the LORD, men shall speak of you as the ministers of our God; you shall eat the wealth of the nations, and in their riches you shall glory.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 23: 1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6,

V/. The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

R/. The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

V/. The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want;

he makes me lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul.

R/. The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want

V/. He leads me in paths

of righteousness for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley

of the shadow of death,

I fear no evil; for you are with me;

your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

R/. The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want

V/. You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil,
my cup overflows.

R/. The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want

V/. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life;
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

R/. The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want

Or:

I will make you a light to the nations so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

49: 1-6

Listen to me, O islands, and pay attention, you peoples from afar. The LORD called me from the womb, from the body of my mother he named my name. He made my mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me away. And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified." But I said, "I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my right is with the LORD, and my recompense with my God." And now the LORD says, who formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD, and my God has become my strength—he says: "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the preserved of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 27: 1, 4, 13-14

V./ The Lord is my light and my salvation.

R./ The Lord is my light and my salvation.

V./ The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
of whom should I be afraid?

R./ The Lord is my light and my salvation.

V./ One thing have I ask of the Lord;
that will I seek after,
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,

to behold the beauty of the Lord
and to inquire in his temple.

R./ The Lord is my light and my salvation.

V./ I believe that I shall see
the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living!
Wait for the Lord;
be strong and let your heart take courage;
yes, wait for the Lord!

R./ The Lord is my light and my salvation.

SECOND READING

Behold, new things have come.

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians 5: 14-17

For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, that those who live might live no longer for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised. From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh; even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. Therefore, if any one is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come.

Or:

As the Apostles were looking on, Jesus was taken up.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

1: 3-8

Jesus presented himself alive after his passion by many proofs, appearing to the Apostles during forty days, and speaking of the kingdom of God. And while staying with them he charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me, for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit." So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth."

ALLELUIA

Mt 28: 19, 20

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..
I am with you always, to the close of the age.

Or:

Lk 10: 2

The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few;
pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send our laborers into his harvest.

GOSPEL

Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel.

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 16: 15-20

Jesus said to his disciples:

"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover." So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that attended it. Amen.

Or:

Your peace will rest on that person.

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 10: 1-9

The Lord appointed seventy others, and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to come. And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go your way; behold, I send you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and salute no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house!' And if a son of peace is there, your peace shall rest upon him; but if not, it shall return to you. And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages; do not go from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you; heal the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'

MASSES FOR DIVERSE OCCASIONS

1

TO STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY LIFE

Choose from the following Readings:

FIRST READING

All who believed were together and had all things in common.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

2: 42-47

And they held steadfastly to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And fear came upon every soul; and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common; and they sold their possessions and goods and distributed them to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they partook of food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Or:

They were of one heart and mind.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

4: 32-35

Now the company of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things which he possessed was his own, but they had everything in common. And with great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of what was sold and laid it at the apostles' feet; and distribution was made to each as any had need.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

1Jn 4: 7, 8, 10, 11, 12

V./ Remain steadfast, love one another.

R./ Remain steadfast, love one another.

V./ Let us love one another for love is of God;
and he who loves is of God
and knows of God.

R./ Remain steadfast, love one another.

V./ He who does not love
does not know God; for God is love.

R./ Remain steadfast, love one another.

V./ In this is love, not that we loved God,
but that he loved us
and has sent his Son to be an expiation for our sins.

R./ Remain steadfast, love one another.

V./ If God so loved us,
we also ought to love one another.

R./ Remain steadfast, love one another.

V./ If we love one another God abides in us,
and his love is perfected in us.

R./ Remain steadfast, love one another.

SECOND READING

Each member was at the service of the others.

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans 12: 3-13

For by the grace given to me I bid every one among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith which God has assigned him. For as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; he who teaches, in his teaching; he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who contributes, in liberality; he who gives aid, with zeal; he who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Never flag in zeal, be aglow with the Spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints, practice hospitality.

Or:

If we love one another, God remains in us.

A reading from the first Letter of John 4:7-16

Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God, and he who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God; for God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the expiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No man has ever seen God; if

we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his own Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So we know and believe the love God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

ALLELUIA

Ps 133: 1

Behold, how good and pleasant it is, when brothers dwell in unity.

Or:

Jn 13: 34

A new commandment I give you, that you love one another even as I have loved you.

Or:

Col 3: 15

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body.

GOSPEL

Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am in the midst of them.

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 18:15-22

Jesus said to his disciples:

"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.

Or:

This is my commandment: love one another as I love you.

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 15: 9-17

Jesus said to his disciples:

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you.

No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide; so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. This I command you, to love one another.

Or:

That all may be one.

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

17: 20-26

Jesus lifted up his eyes to heaven and said:

"I do not pray for these only, but also for those who believe in me through their word, that they may all be one; even as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory which you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to behold my glory which you have given me in your love for me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father, the world has not known you, but I have known you; and these know that you have sent me. I made known to them your name, and I will make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

2

FOR CLARETIAN VOCATIONS

Readings may be taken from Masses for various needs and occasions: For Vocations, or selected from the following:

FIRST READING

Speak, Lord, for your servant hears.

A reading from the first Book of Samuel

3: 1-10

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. And the word of the LORD was rare in those days; there was no frequent vision. At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim, so that he could not see, was lying down in his own place; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down within the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. Then the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. And the LORD called again, "Samuel!" And Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. And the LORD called Samuel

again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant hears.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. And the LORD came and stood forth, calling as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant hears."

Or:

To whomever I send you, you shall go.

The beginning of the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah 1: 4-9

Now the word of the LORD came to me saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth." But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a youth'; for to all to whom I send you you shall go, and whatever I command you you shall speak. Be not afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD." Then the LORD put forth his hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me, "Behold, I have put my words in your mouth.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 40: 1, 3ab, 6-8.10,12

V/. Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

R/. Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

V/. I waited patiently for the Lord;
he inclined to me and heard my cry.
He put a new song into my mouth,
a song of praise to our God.

R/. Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

V/. Sacrifice and offering you do not desire,
but you have given me an open ear.
Burnt offering and sin offerings you have not required.
Then said I, "Behold I come;"

R/. Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

V/. "In the roll of the book it is written for me;
I delight to do your will, O my God;
your law is within my heart!"

R/. Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

V/. I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation;
behold I have not restrained my lips, as you know, O Lord.

R/. Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

V/. Do not, O Lord, withhold your compassion from me;
let your mercy and your faithfulness ever preserve me!

R/. Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

Or: Ps 27: 1, 4, 5, 8b-9ab, 9cd, 11

V/. I long to see your face, O Lord.

R/. I long to see your face, O Lord.

V/. The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

R/. I long to see your face, O Lord.

V/. One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple.

R/. I long to see your face, O Lord.

V/. For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent, he will set me high upon a rock.

R/. I long to see your face, O Lord.

V/. "Your face, LORD, do I seek." Hide not your face from me. Turn not your servant away in anger, you who have been my help. Cast me not off,

R/. I long to see your face, O Lord.

V/. Forsake me not, O God of my salvation! Teach me your way, O LORD; and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.

R/. I long to see your face, O Lord.

SECOND READING

For his sake I have accepted the loss of all things

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians 3: 8-14

Brothers and sisters:

Indeed I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as refuse, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own, based on law, but that which is

through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith; that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that if possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brethren, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but one thing I do, forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

ALLELUIA

Mk 1: 17

Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men."

Or:

Jn 15: 16

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide.

GOSPEL

The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few.

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 9: 35-38

Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every infirmity. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

Or:

From this moment on, you will be fishers of men.

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

5: 1-11

While the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God, he was standing by the lake of Gennesaret. And he saw two boats by the lake; but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. And when he had ceased speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." And when they had done this, they enclosed a great shoal of fish; and as their nets were breaking, they beckoned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; henceforth you will be catching men." And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

RITUAL FOR RELIGIOUS PROFESSION

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

I. NATURE AND IMPORTANCE OF RELIGIOUS PROFESSION

1. In response to God's call many Christians dedicate themselves to his service and to the welfare of humanity through the sacred bonds of religious life and seek to follow Christ more closely through the evangelical counsels¹. **This leads to the grace of baptism achieving richer results in them².**

2. **The Church has always esteemed the religious life, which, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, has taken various forms in the course of history³. It has raised religious life to the rank of a canonical state and approved a great number of religious institutes and protected them by wise legislation⁴.**

For it is the Church that receives the vows of those who make religious profession, begs God's grace for them by its public prayer, puts them in God's hands, blesses them, and unites their offering with the Eucharist⁵.

II. RITES FOR THE DIFFERENT STAGES OF RELIGIOUS LIFE

3. The steps by which religious dedicate themselves to God and the Church are these: novitiate, first profession, renovation of vows and final profession.

4. The novitiate, the beginning of life in the Institute⁶, **is a time of testing for both novice and community. Entry into the novitiate should be marked by a rite in which God's grace is sought for the special purpose of the period. This rite should, of its nature, be restrained and simple, celebrated in the presence only of the religious community. It should take place outside Mass.**

5. **First profession then follows. Through temporary vows before God and the Church the novices promise to observe the evangelical counsels. Such vows may be taken within Mass, but without special solemnity. The rite of first profession provides for the bestowal of the habit and other insignias of the religious life, following the very ancient custom, the habit is given at the end of the period of probation, since the habit is a sign of consecration⁷.**

6. **After the period prescribed by law, final profession is made, by which religious bind themselves permanently to the service of God and the Church. Perpetual profession reflects the unbreakable union between Christ and his Bride, the Church⁸.**

It is very fitting that the rite of final profession should take place within Mass, with due solemnity and in the presence of the religious community and the People⁹. The rite consists of these parts:

¹ Lumen Gentium 43; Perfectae Caritatis 1.

² Lumen Gentium 43.

³ Lumen Gentium 43; Perfectae Caritatis 1.

⁴ Lumen Gentium 45; Perfectae Caritatis 1.

⁵ Lumen Gentium 45.

⁶ Revocationis Causam 13.

⁷ Perfectae Caritatis 1.

⁸ Lumen Gentium 44.

⁹ Sacrosanctum Concilium 80.

- a. **The call or petition of those to be professed, may be omitted if judged convenient.**
- b. **The homily or address, which reminds the people and those to be professed of the value of religious life.**
- c. **The examination, by which the celebrant or superior asks those who are to be professed whether they are prepared to be consecrated to God and to follow the way of perfect charity, according to the Constitutions.**
- d. **The litanies, in which prayer is offered to God the Father, and the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints is invoked.**
- e. **The profession, made in the presence of the Church, the lawful superior of the institute, the witnesses, and the people.**
- f. **The solemn blessing or consecration of the professed. By it the Church, our Mother, ratifies their profession through a liturgical consecration, asking the heavenly Father to pour forth upon those professed the gifts of the Holy Spirit.**

7. The renewal of vows may take place within Mass, but without solemnity, especially if renewal of vows is frequent (annual).

A liturgical rite has place only in the case of renewal of vows that has the force of law. In many religious communities, however, the custom of renewing vows has become established as an exercise of devotion at determined times. It may be carried out in many ways; but the practice of doing publicly within Mass what belongs to private devotion is not to be encouraged. If it seems appropriate to renew vows publicly on special anniversaries, for example, the twenty-fifth or fiftieth year of religious life, the rite for the renewal of vows may be used with the necessary adaptations.

8. Since all these rites have their own special character, each demands a celebration of its own. The celebration of several rites within the same liturgical service is to be absolutely excluded.

III. MASS FOR THE RITE OF RELIGIOUS PROFESSION

9. Whenever religious profession, and especially final profession, takes place within Mass, it is appropriate to choose one of the ritual Masses for the day of Religious Profession from the *Roman Missal* or the proper missal of the Congregation. In the case of a Sunday of Advent, Lent or Easter, of any solemnity, or of Ash Wednesday and all of Holy Week, All Souls Day, the Mass is that of the day; but the special formularies for the professed during the Eucharistic prayer and the final blessing may be retained.

10. Since the liturgy of the Word for the rite of profession is very important to bring out the meaning of religious life and its responsibilities, it is lawful, when the Mass for the day of religious profession may not be used, to take one reading from the special list of readings for the rite of

profession. But this may not be done during the Sundays of Advent, Lent, Easter, the Easter triduum, solemnities of obligation and All Souls Day.

11. White vestments are worn for the ritual Mass for the day of religious profession.

IV. ADAPTATIONS MADE BY THE CONGREGATION

12. In the present Ritual, the Congregation has adapted according to its spirit and charism, the Roman Ritual and Pontifical, for all those who make a consecration to God by means of the evangelical councils. (The English version of the texts and directives prepared by the International Commission on English in the Liturgy comes from “The Rites of the Catholic Church as Revised by the Second Vatican Council,” Liturgical Press, 1991.)

13. The present Ritual is obligatory for the whole Congregation. In regard to the different languages and cultures in the Congregation, certain elements can be adapted and inculturated, always caring for the orientations and criteria given in the Instruction **The Roman Liturgy and Inculturation** (Rome 1994).

14. The process of adaptation and inculturation of this Ritual is the competence of the Provincial Conferences or provincial Governments according to circumstances. To them also corresponds the translation into the vernacular languages. They will present to the General Government the translations and proposals for adaptation and inculturation, and the General Government will request confirmation from the Holy See.

CHAPTER ONE

RITE OF INITIATION INTO RELIGIOUS LIFE

1. On the day when the canonical novitiate begins, it is fitting that there should be a ceremony to ask God's grace for achieving the special purpose of the novitiate.
2. It is forbidden to perform the rite of initiation during Mass. The rite of initiation is inserted conveniently in a celebration of the Word which explains the nature of the religious life and our own Claretian vocation. The celebration can also be held within the context of the Liturgy of the Hours, principally in Morning or Evening Prayer.
3. The rite is to be very simple and direct, in the presence of the religious community only.
4. The texts for the rite must avoid anything that may seem to diminish the freedom of choice of the novice or obscure the true meaning of noviceship or time of testing.
5. The chapel or some other appropriate dignified setting for the rite should be chosen.

DESCRIPTION OF THE RITE

I - WITHIN THE CELEBRATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Song

6. After the community has gathered together, the postulants enter accompanied by the person who was their formator during the prenovitiate. The ceremony begins with an entrance song appropriate to the circumstances.

7. All make the sign of the cross while the Superior who presides says:

**In the name of the Father and
of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.**

The Superior adds:

**The Lord who called the apostles
and has called us to announce the Word
be always with you.**

All:

And also with you.

8. The Superior says a few words of greeting to those present, above all to the postulants.

Request for admission

9. Everyone sits except the postulants who remain standing. The Superior directs his words to the postulants with these or similar words:

**N.N.,
Today we have gathered in the name of Jesus Christ to celebrate
his Word, living and efficacious, and for you to manifest your
intentions before the community. Now tell us what you wish:**

Together the postulants reply in these or similar words:

**We desire, with God's grace,
to begin the novitiate in order to share and experience your missionary life
according to the spirit and charism of Saint Anthony Mary Claret.
We ask that you introduce us to the experience of following Jesus Christ poor,
virgin and obedient in announcing the Gospel (Dir 195) according to the
Constitutions of the Congregation.
Help us to unite ourselves with all our hearts to Christ the Lord in the
Eucharistic Mystery, to take as our Mother and teacher the Virgin Mary, the
first disciple of Christ (CC 61),
and to lay the foundations for the missionary life.**

On our part, we commit ourselves

**to continue the process of discernment of our vocation
and make the effort to faithfully respond to God
with a joyous and generous spirit (CC 67).**

**We ask that you accompany us on this journey we begin today
with your prayers and counsels so that one day we may profess
in this Congregation and call ourselves and truly be
Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.**

The Superior replies:

May God help you to achieve this desire.

Or:

**May God, the source of all perfect gifts, who in his goodness
called you to the Claretian missionary life,
assist you with his grace, help you to be more Christlike,
guide you with the light of the Holy Spirit
and accompany you during this time of the novitiate,
so that, faithful to the vocation received,
you may one day profess in our Congregation.**

All:

Amen.

10. If it seems better, the question can be omitted and the petition can be made in the following way. Together, the postulants direct themselves to the Superior with the following or similar words:

**We N.N.,
moved by the grace of God and responding to his call,
wish to be admitted to the novitiate to share in your missionary life
according to the spirit and charism of Saint Anthony Mary Claret.
Teach us to follow and conform ourselves with Jesus Christ,
poor, virgin, obedient, to hear and accept God's Word in the liturgy
and in silent personal prayer following the example of the Virgin Mary,
the first disciple of Christ, to be persevering in prayer,
and to live in community life the Claretian missionary spirit.
Help us during this time to discern our vocation,
and to know and live the Claretian charism as proposed by the Constitutions.
We ask God, through the intercession of Saint Anthony Claret
and the Blessed Claretian Martyrs of Barbastro,
to use well this time of grace and prepare to profess in this Congregation, and
to be called and truly be Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.**

The Superior prays with these or similar words:

May the Lord, who is the source of grace and of vocation,

**who has called you to share our missionary life,
help you discern your Claretian vocation,
guide you along the path of the Gospel,
help you to be more like Christ,
and guide you with the light of the Holy Spirit
so that one day you may consecrate yourself to him
and be part of our Congregation of Claretian Missionaries.**

All:

Amen.

Opening Prayer

11. After the question or the petition, the Superior prays:

Let us pray

All pray silently for a while. The Superior continues saying:

**From you, Lord, all religious vocations come,
hear the prayers of your sons N.N.,
who wish to be members of our Congregation
of Missionary Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary,
to serve you more faithfully in the ministry of the Word;
May our words and the style of our missionary life
be an incentive for them to embrace the Claretian vocation.
Through Christ Our Lord.**

All:

Amen.

Or:

**O God, you sent your Son Jesus
to make known to us the mystery of salvation.
In your goodness hear the prayers of your sons, N.N.,
who embark on their Claretian missionary life with us.
Grant that during the time of their novitiate
they may they be open to your Word and
diligent in prayer, and thus discern their vocation.
Living the faith which inflamed the Prophets, Apostles and Martyrs,
may they one day consecrate themselves to you by religious profession
and dedicate themselves to announcing the Good News of the Kingdom.
Through Christ Our Lord.**

All:

Amen.

CELEBRATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

12. Suitable texts from holy Scripture are then read, with appropriate responsories, see Appendix.

13. After the readings, the Superior addresses the community and the postulants on the meaning of the religious life and the spirit of a Claretian missionary vocation, or he reads an appropriate chapter of the Constitutions.

Presentation of the book of the Autobiography

14. After finishing the exhortation and a few moments of silence, the Superior gives each of the postulants the book of the Autobiography of Saint Anthony Claret, with these or similar words:

**Receive this book of the Autobiography
of Saint Anthony Mary Claret. Read it attentively,
so that it may introduce you to a life
dedicated to proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom.
May it fill you with the spirit
to understand and live the mystery of Christ,
anointed and sent by the Father,
and extend your consecration and mission to the world.**

Welcoming the Novices

15. The Superior, with all standing, addresses the novices with these or similar words:

**Dear brothers,
in light of God's Word which we have listened to and meditated upon,
and in the name of the Congregation of Claretian Missionaries,
I admit you to the novitiate
to prepare yourselves for consecration to God by religious profession,
and to commit yourselves to the Immaculate Heart of Mary
for the ministry of salvation.**

The novices reply:

Thanks be to God.

Or:

**We give thanks and praise to God
for his eternal mercy.**

The Superior continues:

**May the Heart of Mary
teach you to treasure the Gospel in your hearts.
May Saint Anthony Claret endow you with the his missionary spirit
so that, burning with charity,
you may imitate Jesus in prayer, work and suffering
for the greater glory of God and the salvation of the world.**

All:

Amen.

The novices approach the Superior, who gives them the traditional “abrazo” or some other customary gesture culturally signifying welcome or acceptance; the members of the community present will do the same while an antiphon or appropriate song is sung.

CONCLUDING RITES

Universal Prayer of the Faithful - Concluding Prayers

16. Next the Superior introduces the prayer of the faithful (cf. no. 155) which ends with the Sunday prayer and the following final prayer, saying:

**O God,
author and giver of a religious vocation,
listen to the prayer of your sons
and grant to these our brothers,
who desire to experience our life,
to know your will,
and for us, to always be faithful in your service.
Through Christ our Lord.**

All:

Amen.

Or:

**God our Father,
you send your Son into this world
to bring the good news to the poor,
grant to our brothers, N.N.,**

**who today begin their novitiate,
the grace to be faithful to their vocation,
and dedicate themselves to the Immaculate Heart of Mary,
to be configured with the mystery of Christ
following the example of St. Anthony Claret, our founder.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

All:

Amen

17. The Superior entrusts the newly admitted novices to the care of the novice master in these or similar words:

**The Congregation entrusts to your care and attention our brothers N.N.,
who now begin their novitiate
to be introduced to our Claretian missionary life.
With your counsel and work help them in their formation
and to build a solid base for life in the Congregation.
Accompany them in their following of the poor, chaste and
obedient Jesus, so they integrate the spirit of union with God
and apostolic activities.**

**May the Lord help you with his grace,
the Heart of Mary accompany and protect you,
our holy Father Founder fill you with his spirit,
and our Blessed Claretian Martyrs of Barbastro
strengthen your faith and generosity.
We will assist you in this task
by our prayers, example and collaboration.**

An appropriate song may now be sung.

The Superior concludes saying:

Go in peace.

All:

Thanks be to God.

II - WITHIN THE CELEBRATION OF THE LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Opening of the Liturgy of the Hours

18. The rite of initiation to the novitiate can be held within the celebration of Morning Prayer or Evening Prayer. The liturgy of the hour is begun as usual.

Readings - Request for admission

19. After the Reading, short or long, the Superior directs his words to the postulants, who are standing, in these or similar words:

N.N.,

Today we have gathered in the name of the Lord Jesus to pray and give glory to God in union with the whole Church and to offer the opportunity for you to manifest your intentions before the community. Now tell us what you wish:

Together the postulants reply in these or similar words:

We desire, with God's grace, to begin the novitiate in order to share and experience your missionary life according to the spirit and charism of Saint Anthony Mary Claret. We ask that you introduce us to the experience of following Jesus Christ poor, virgin and obedient in announcing the Gospel (Dir 195) according to the Constitutions of the Congregation. Help us to unite ourselves with all our hearts to Christ the Lord in the Eucharistic Mystery, to take as our Mother and teacher the Virgin Mary, the first disciple of Christ (CC 61), and to lay the foundations for the missionary life.

On our part, we commit ourselves to continue the process of discernment of our vocation and make the effort to faithfully respond to God with a joyous and generous spirit. We ask that you accompany us on this journey we begin today with your prayers and counsels so that one day we may profess in this Congregation and call ourselves and truly be Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

The Superior Replies:

May God help you to achieve this desire.

Or:

May God, the source of all perfect gifts, who in his goodness called you to the Claretian missionary life, assist you with his grace, help you to be more like his Son Jesus, guide you with the light of the Holy Spirit and accompany you during this time of the novitiate, so that, faithful to the vocation received, you may one day profess in our Congregation.

All:

Amen.

20. If it is more fitting, the question can be omitted and the petition be made in the following way. Together, the postulants direct themselves to the Superior in these or similar words:

**We N.N.,
moved by the grace of God and responding to his call,
wish to be admitted to the novitiate to share in your missionary life
according to the spirit and charism of Saint Anthony Mary Claret.
Teach us to follow and conform ourselves with Jesus Christ,
poor, virgin, obedient, to hear and accept God's Word in the liturgy
and in silent personal prayer following the example of the Virgin Mary, the first
disciple of Christ, to be persevering in prayer,
and to live in community life the Claretian missionary spirit.
Help us during this time to discern our vocation,
and to know and live the Claretian charism
as proposed by the Constitutions.
We ask God, through the intercession of Saint Anthony Claret
and the Blessed Claretian Martyrs of Barbastro,
to use well this time of grace and prepare to profess in this Congregation,
and to be called and truly be Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.**

The Superior prays in these or similar words:

**May the Lord, who is the source of grace and vocation,
and who has called you to share our missionary life,
help you discern your Claretian vocation,
guide you along the path of the Gospel,
be more Christlike,
and guide you with the light of the Holy Spirit
so that one day you may consecrate yourself to him
and be part of our Congregation of Claretian Missionaries.**

All:

Amen.

21. After the question or the petition, the Superior prays:

Let us pray.

All pray silently for a while. The Superior continues saying:

**From you, Lord, all religious vocations come,
hear the prayers of your sons N.N.,
who wish to be members of our Congregation
of Missionary Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary,
to serve you more faithfully in the ministry of the Word;
May our words and the style of our missionary life**

**be an incentive for them to embrace the Claretian vocation.
Through Christ Our Lord.**

All:

Amen.

Or:

**O God, you sent your Son Jesus
to make known to us the mystery of salvation.
In your goodness hear the prayers of your sons, N.N.,
who embark on their Claretian missionary life with us.
Grant that during the time of their novitiate
they may they be open to your Word
and diligent in prayer, and thus discern their vocation.
Living the faith which inflamed the Prophets, Apostles and Martyrs,
may they one day consecrate themselves to you by religious profession
and dedicate themselves to announcing the Good News of the Kingdom.
Through Christ Our Lord.**

All:

Amen.

22. The Superior continues and addresses the community and the postulants on the meaning of the religious life and the spirit of a Claretian missionary vocation.

Presentation of the book of the Autobiography

23. After finishing the exhortation and a few moments of silence, the Superior gives each of the postulants the book of the Autobiography of Saint Anthony Claret, in these or similar words:

**Receive this book of the Autobiography
of Saint Anthony Mary Claret. Read it attentively,
So that it may introduce you to a life
dedicated to proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom.
May it fill you with the spirit
to understand and live the mystery of Christ,
anointed and sent by the father,
and extend your consecration and mission to the world.**

24. Continue the recitation of the Liturgy of the Hours. In the Intercessions, a petition should be formulated for the new novices so the Lord accompanies them with his grace.

Welcoming the Novices

25. After the final Prayer of the Divine Office, the Superior addresses the novices in these or similar words:

Dear brothers,

**in light of God's Word, which we have listened to and meditated upon,
and in the name of the Congregation of Claretian Missionaries,
I admit you to the novitiate
to prepare yourselves for consecration to God by religious profession,
and to commit yourselves to the Immaculate Heart of Mary
for the ministry of salvation.**

The novices reply:

Thanks be to God.

Or:

**We give thanks and praise to God
for his eternal mercy.**

The Superior continues:

**May the Heart of Mary
teach you to treasure the Gospel in your hearts.
May Saint Anthony Claret endow you with his missionary spirit
so that, burning with charity,
you may imitate Jesus in prayer, work and suffering
for the greater glory of God and the salvation of the world.**

All:

Amen.

The novices approach the Superior, who gives them the traditional embrace or some other customary gesture culturally signifying welcome or acceptance; the members of the community present will do the same while an antiphon or appropriate song is sung.

26. The Superior entrusts the newly admitted novices to the care of the novice master in these or similar words:

**The Congregation entrusts to your care and attention our brothers N.N.,
who now begin their novitiate
to be introduced to our Claretian missionary life.
With your counsel and work help them in their formation
and to build a solid base for life in the Congregation.
Accompany them in their following of the poor, chaste and
obedient Jesus, so they integrate the spirit of union with God
and apostolic activities.**

**May the Lord help you with his grace,
the Heart of Mary accompany and protect you,
our holy Father Founder fill you with his spirit,
and our Blessed Claretian Martyrs of Barbastro
strengthen your faith and generosity.
We will assist you in this task**

by our prayers, example and collaboration.

Conclusion of the Liturgy of the Hours

Conclude the recitation of the Liturgy of the Hours with the customary blessing.

CHAPTER TWO

RITE OF TEMPORARY PROFESSION DURING MASS

27. The rite described in this chapter takes place during Mass. It may be used only for those novices who make their first profession upon successful completion of the novitiate (cf. General Observations, no. 5).
28. The Mass is that which corresponds to the liturgy of the day, or the ritual mass in the sacramentary for the day of first profession, or the ritual Mass for profession proper to the Congregation, in conformance with the rubrics (cf. General Observations, nos. 9-11).
29. Generally, the superior who receives the profession is to preside at the Eucharist.
30. The religious profession ordinarily takes place at the chair; if circumstances so dictate, the chair may be placed in front of the altar. Seats should be so arranged in the sanctuary for those making profession so that the faithful have a complete view of the liturgical rites.
31. Enough bread and wine for consecration should be prepared for the ministers, those making their profession, and the other participants. If only one chalice is used, it should be sufficiently large.
32. In addition to what is needed for Mass, there should also be ready: a) the ritual for religious profession; b) the religious habit if it is given; c) the book of Constitutions.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

33. When the people of God and the Claretian community are assembled and everything is ready, the procession moves through the church to the altar in the usual way while the choir and people sing the entrance song. It is recommended that those to be professed join in the procession, accompanied by the novice master.
34. When they come to the sanctuary all make the customary reverence to the altar and go to their respective places; then Mass continues.
35. Instead of the penitential rite, it is recommended to use the rite of blessing and sprinkling holy water so as to remind the novices and the participants that at baptism they were consecrated to God by means of water and the Spirit. The rite is celebrated according to the rite as given in the Roman Missal. A brief greeting with an introduction to the mass and ceremony may be given at the beginning of the mass. The Celebrant addresses the assembly and the novices in these or similar words.

**My brothers and sisters,
to begin this celebration of the Eucharist,
the memorial of the death and resurrection of Jesus,
we humbly pray to God our creator to bless this water
which will be used to remind us of our baptism.
Especially you, novices, before you make your religious profession,**

**remember that by baptism you were made sons of God
and brothers of Christ,
temples of the Holy Spirit and members of the Church.
We ask the Lord pardon for our sins, conversion of heart
and the renewal of our life according to the Gospel,
so as to remain faithful to the Spirit we have received.**

After a few moments of silence, the celebrant continues with hands joined:

**All powerful and eternal God,
by means of water,
the source of life and means of purification,
you desired to cleanse our sins
and give us the gift of eternal life.
Bless _ this water, as a sign of your protection
(on this day consecrated to you, Lord).
By means of this water
renew in us the living fount of your grace,
and free us from all evil of body and soul,
so with a clean heart we may come closer to you
and worthily receive your saving grace.
Through Jesus our Lord.**

All: **Amen.**

For other texts see no. 153

Taking the sprinkler, the priest sprinkles himself and his ministers, then the rest of the clergy and the people. He may move through the church for the sprinkling of the people.

Meanwhile, an antiphon or other appropriate song is sung:

**Shower me, Lord, with the hyssop; I will be clean.
Wash me, that I may be whiter than snow.**

Or:

**I will shower you with pure water
that you may be purified of all your uncleanness
and I will give you a new heart, says the Lord.**

When he returns to his place and the song is finished, the priest faces the people and, with joined hands, says:

**May almighty God cleanse us from our sins,
and through the Eucharist we celebrate
make us worthy to sit at his table
in his heavenly kingdom.**

All:

Amen.

The *Gloria* is said or sung according to liturgical norms.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

36. The Liturgy of the Word takes place as usual, except for the following:

- a) Choose readings from the Mass of the day or from the texts of the Lectionary of Professions found in nos. 101- 152 of this ritual (cf. General Observations, nos. 9-10).
- b) The profession of faith may be omitted, even if prescribed by the rubrics of the day.

RELIGIOUS PROFESSION

Call – Request

37. After the gospel the celebrant and the people sit, while those to be professed stand.

Then, if it seems opportune, the deacon or the novice master calls those to be professed by name. They answer thus or in similar words:

Present

38. The celebrant then questions those to be professed in these or similar words:

**My dear brothers,
after having shared
and experienced our missionary life
during the time of novitiate,
what do you now ask in the presence of the people of God?**

Those who will profess reply together in these or similar words:

**We ask God to give us the grace
to follow Jesus Christ
poor, chaste and obedient in announcing the Gospel,
and to you, Father N., we ask to make our religious profession
in the Congregation of Missionaries,
Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary,
to consecrate ourselves to God
and dedicate ourselves to the Immaculate Heart of Mary
for the ministry of salvation.
Following the example of our Holy Founder, Saint Anthony Mary Claret,
and the Blessed Claretian Martyrs of Barbastro
we commit ourselves to make the life of Jesus our model,
to follow in faith the Virgin Mary,
and to live in communion of life with you.
According to the Constitutions,
we will always seek the glory of God, our sanctification
and, moved by charity, the salvation of all peoples in the world.**

The celebrant and all present reply:

Thanks be to God.

39. If it seems opportune, the preceding calling by name and the questioning may be omitted and the request made in the following way: One of the candidates in the name of all, or all together, addresses the celebrant in these or similar words:

**After sharing
and experiencing your missionary life,
we, N.N.,
wish to respond to the divine call.
So we ask you, Father N.,
to allow us to profess the evangelical councils
in the Congregation of Missionaries,
Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary,
so that giving ourselves to God, we may be consecrated by him,
follow Christ in community life,
and dedicate ourselves to the special service
of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.
We desire to share your fraternal life
and come to be worthy ministers of the Word
to make your name known
and spread the kingdom of heaven here on earth.
We ask that you pray to the Lord,
through the intercession of our Father Founder
and the Blessed Claretian Martyrs of Barbastro,
that we be faithful to what we promise today before the Church.**

The celebrant and all present respond in these or similar words:

Thanks be to God.

Homily or address

40. Those present and those to be professed sit and listen to the homily or address, which should come from the scriptural readings and the theme of religious profession as God's gift and call for the sanctification of those chosen and for the good of the Church and the whole human family.

Examination

41. After the homily or address, those to be professed stand. The celebrant questions them on their readiness to dedicate themselves to God and to seek perfect charity, according to the Constitutions of the Congregation.

The celebrant asks:

Dear Brothers, already consecrated to God's service by water and the Holy Spirit, are you resolved to unite yourselves more closely to him by religious profession?

Those to profess reply:

I am.

Or:

**I am.
After being consecrated to God by baptism,
I wish to give myself to him by the profession of the evangelical councils,
and always seek his greater glory, my sanctification
and the salvation of all in the world.**

The celebrant continues:

**Are you resolved to live in chastity for the sake of the kingdom, to choose a life
of poverty and promise obedience, to follow Christ according to the Claretian
charism?**

Those to profess reply:

I am.

Or:

**I am.
With the grace of God,
I wish to consecrate myself wholeheartedly to the affairs of the Father,
that my vow of chastity be a sign of perfect love,
a source of spiritual fecundity for the world.
By the vow of poverty I wish to imitate Christ,
who being rich became poor to enrich us,
and have the spirit of poverty affect my whole life,
to have others recall the riches of eternal life.
By my vow of obedience I wish to be more like Christ,
who was obedient unto death,
and I propose to search, together with all of you,
to know and fulfill God's will
so as to accomplish the mission we have in the Church.**

The Celebrant:

**By the power of the Spirit, do you also wish to give yourselves
to the service of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
for the ministry of salvation,
and faithfully keep the Constitutions
so as to grow in the way of the Lord?**

Those to profess reply:

I do.

Or:

Yes, I wish to dedicate myself to the Most Holy Virgin Mary so as to be configured with the mystery of Christ and cooperate in her motherly role in the apostolic mission. I will faithfully keep the Constitutions in order to be a true minister of the Word like Saint Anthony Claret, our Founder.

42. The Celebrant confirms this decision saying:

May almighty God, by his grace, grant you this.

Or:

**May the God of mercy
who called you to the Claretian missionary vocation,
accompany you with his grace,
enlighten you with his Word,
guide you to the perfection of charity,
strengthen your will so you always remain faithful
to what you promise today before the Church.**

All:

Amen.

Prayer for God's grace

43. The Celebrant then prays for God's help, saying:

Let us pray.

All pray for a while in silence. Then the celebrant says:

**Lord, look kindly upon these sons of yours
who are resolved to dedicate their lives to you
by making profession of the evangelical counsels
in the presence of your Church today.
Mercifully grant that their manner of life
may bring glory to your name and
further your loving plan of redemption.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.**

Or:

**Loving Father, your Son chose the apostles
and sent them to spread the Gospel,
let these your sons N.N.,**

**who, by professing the evangelical councils,
consecrate themselves to you today,
persevere in the vocation they have received
and, filled with the spirit of Saint Anthony Claret,
be tireless in proclaiming the Gospel.
Through Christ our Lord.**

All:

Amen.

Profession

44. After the prayer, each one who will make his profession approaches the Superior, kneels and places his hand in his hand in the superior's and in a clear voice pronounces the formula of profession. Two religious act as witnesses.

**In answer to God's call, I, N.,
desire to seek his glory more earnestly,
to devote myself to him more fully,
and to follow Christ more closely, as the Apostles did,
in the ministry of salvation throughout the world.**

**Therefore, in the presence of God's family gathered
here, through your hands Father N.,**

**I consecrate myself in the Holy Spirit,
to God the Father, through Jesus Christ his Son,
and I offer myself in special service to the
Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
in order to fulfill the aim for which
this Congregation has been established in the Church.**

**And so, I vow to God CHASTITY, POVERTY AND
OBEDIENCE for *one year (or for three years)*
and I promise to live in the community of apostolic life
of this Congregation of Missionaries, Sons of the
Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
according to its Constitutions,
which I will observe with all possible care.**

**Therefore I ask you, my brothers and sisters,
to be witness to my profession.
Pray for me,
that in serving God and the Church,
I may be faithful to the spirit of our Founder,
Saint Anthony Mary Claret,
and that I may reach the perfection of charity.
Amen.**

If there are many making their profession, the formula of profession may be recited by all together but each individual will say the words: “***And so, I vow to God.....*** ending with, ... ***observe with all possible care,*** this clearly indicating his personal decision.

Presentation of the Insignia of Religious Profession

45. Then, the religious habit is presented to each of he newly professed, where it is customary, and the Constitutions.

Where the religious habit is presented the celebrant says:

**Receive this habit,
the sign of your consecration to the Lord
and your apostolic mission to the service of the Church
for the salvation of all in the world.**

The newly professed respond:

Amen.

If the professed are many, or for some other good reason, the celebrant recites the formula for the presentation of the habit only once, saying:

**Receive this habit,
the sign of your consecration to the Lord
and your apostolic mission to the service of the Church
for the salvation of all the world.**

All the newly professed respond:

Amen.

While the professed put on the habit in the sacristy or another appropriate place, according to the circumstances the following or another appropriate antiphon is sung:

**Look down from heaven, Lord, see
and make perfect this vine planted by your right hand.**

Or:

**Such are the men who love the Lord,
that seek the face of the God of Jacob.**

With Psalm 24, or another appropriate psalm, is sung or recited. The antiphon is repeated after every two verses; at the end of the psalm *glory to the Father* is not said but only the antiphon. If the reception of the habits comes to an end before the whole psalm is sung, the psalm is interrupted and the antiphon repeated.

Presentation of the Constitutions

46. The celebrant gives each of the newly professed the book of the Constitutions saying:

**Receive the Constitutions of our Congregation,
read and learn them so that you may understand them
with your mind,
preserve them in the your heart,
observe them by your conduct,
and find in them strength for your missionary life
so that by faithfully observing them
you may progress in the way of the Lord
and in the service of the Kingdom.**

The newly professed respond:

Amen.

If the professed are many, or for some other good reason, the celebrant recites the formula only once

**Receive the Constitutions of our Congregation,
read and learn them
so that you may understand them with your mind,
preserve them in the your heart,
observe them by your conduct,
and find in them strength for your missionary life
so that by faithfully observing them
you may progress in the way of the Lord
and in the service of the Kingdom.**

The newly professed respond:

Amen.

Then they approach the celebrant who presents each with the book of the Constitutions, and they return to their respective places and remain standing.

The celebrant and the professed Claretians give them the traditional embrace or some other customary cultural gesture as a sign of reception and welcome into the Claretian community. The others present (novices, family, friends) will do this at the Sign of Peace.

CONCLUSION OF THE RITE OF PROFESSION

General Intercessions

47. The rite fittingly concludes with the general intercessions (prayers of the faithful). For these, the formulas given in nos. 155 - 157 may be used.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

48. During the offertory song, it is recommended that some of the newly professed religious bring the bread, wine, and water to the altar for the Eucharist.

49. The sign of peace is done in accordance to customs of the place.

50. After the celebrant has received the body and blood of Christ, the newly professed religious come to the altar to receive communion, which may be given to all under both kinds.

CHAPTER THREE

RITE OF PERPETUAL PROFESSION DURING MASS

51. It is fitting that the rite of profession by which a religious binds himself to God forever, should take place on a Sunday or a solemnity of the Lord, of the Blessed Virgin Mary, of our holy Founder, of or patrons, of our Blessed Claretian Martyrs of Barbastro or other Saints outstanding in the religious or apostolic life.

52. The rite of perpetual profession takes place separately from other rites of profession (cf. General Observations, no. 8).

53. Notice of the day and hour should be given to the faithful in good time so that they may attend in greater numbers.

54. The Mass to be used is that of the liturgy of the day or the ritual Mass *For the day of perpetual profession* or the *Ritual mass for profession proper to the Congregation*, in accordance with the rubrics (General Observations, nos. 9-11).

55. Where possible and if the needs of the faithful do not demand individual celebration by the priests present, it is preferable that the mass be concelebrated, presided generally, by the superior who is to receive the profession of his brothers.

56. Profession ordinarily takes place in the church of our religious community. It can also be celebrated in the cathedral, parish church, or other important church, if it seems fitting for pastoral reasons or the edification of the people of God.

57. If two or more religious institutes wish to celebrate their professions at the same Eucharist, it is fitting that, the rite of profession take place in the cathedral, a parish church, or other important church, with the bishop presiding and the superiors of the institutes concelebrating. Those making their profession will pronounce their vows before their respective superior.

58. The liturgical service should be celebrated with all the solemnity befitting the rite, but any of lavishness unbecoming to religious poverty should be avoided.

59. The profession ordinarily takes place at the chair. To facilitate the participation of the faithful, the celebrant's chair may be placed in front of the altar. Seats for those making their profession should be so arranged in the sanctuary in such a way that the faithful may have a complete view of the liturgical rites.

60. Enough bread and wine for consecration should be prepared for those who will receive Communion. If only one chalice is used, it should be sufficiently large.

61. In addition to what is needed for Mass, there should also be ready: a) the ritual for religious profession and b) a crucifix.

ENTRANCE RITE

62. When the people and the religious are assembled and everything is ready, the procession moves through the church to the altar in the usual way, while the choir and people sing the entrance song. It is recommended that those to be professed join in the procession accompanied by their prefect. When they come to the sanctuary, all make the customary reverence to the altar and go to their assigned places. Then Mass continues.

63. Instead of the penitential rite, it is recommended to use the rite of blessing and sprinkling holy water so as to remind the professed and the participants that at baptism they were consecrated to God by means of water and the Spirit. The rite is celebrated according to the rite as given in the Roman Missal. A brief greeting with an introduction to the mass and ceremony may be given at the beginning of the mass. The Celebrant addresses the assembly and the professed in these or similar words:

**My brothers and sisters,
to begin this celebration of the Eucharist,
the memorial of the death and resurrection of Jesus,
we humbly pray to God our creator to bless this water
which will be used to remind us of our baptism.**

**Especially you, who will profess,
recall that in the tradition of the Church
religious profession is considered
a way to deepen our baptismal consecration.
We ask the Lord pardon for our sins, conversion of heart
and the renewal of our life according to the Gospel,
so as to remain faithful to the Spirit we have received.**

After a few moments of silence, the celebrant continues with hands joined:

**All powerful and eternal God,
by means of water,
the source of life and means of purification,
you desired to cleanse our sins
and give us the gift of eternal life.
Bless _ this water, as a sign of your protection
(on this day consecrated to you, Lord).
By means of this water
renew in us the living fount of your grace,
and free us from all evil of soul and body,
so with a clean heart we may come closer to you
and worthily receive your saving grace.
Through Jesus our Lord.**

All: **Amen.**

For other texts see no. 154

Taking the sprinkler, the priest sprinkles himself and his ministers, then the rest of the clergy and the people. He may move through the church for the sprinkling of the people.

Meanwhile, an antiphon or other appropriate song is sung:

**Shower me, Lord, with the hyssop; I will be clean.
Wash me, that I may be whiter than snow.**

Or:

**I will shower you with pure water
that you may be purified of all your uncleanness
and I will give you a new heart, says the Lord.**

When he returns to his place and the song is finished, the priest faces the people and, with joined hands, says:

**May almighty God cleanse us from our sins,
and through the Eucharist we celebrate**

**make us worthy to sit at his table
in his heavenly kingdom.**

All:

Amen.

The *Gloria* is said or sung according to liturgical norms.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

64. The Liturgy of the Word takes place as usual, except for the following:

- a) The readings are taken from the Mass of the day or from the texts of the Lectionary of Professions found in nos. 101- 152 of this ritual (cf. General Observations, nos. 9-10).
- b) The profession of faith may be omitted, even if prescribed by the rubrics of the day.
- c) The Intercessory Prayers are omitted.

RELIGIOUS PROFESSION

Call or Request

65. After the gospel the celebrant and the people sit, while those to be professed remain standing.

Then, according to choice or circumstances, the deacon or the prefect calls those to be professed by name. They answer thus or in a similar way:

Present

66. The celebrant then questions the professed in these or similar words:

**My dear brothers,
during the time of temporary profession
you have experienced the missionary life
of the Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.
Now, what are you asking of God and our Congregation?**

The candidates reply together in these or similar words:

**We ask God, the author of vocation,
the grace to consecrate ourselves perpetually to him,
in order to seek his greater glory, our own sanctification
and the salvation of all peoples of the world
according to our missionary charism in the Church.
We ask you, Father N.N.,**

**to admit us to perpetual profession
in the Congregation of Missionaries,
Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
to share your fraternal life
and collaborate with you in the ministry of the Word.**

The celebrant and those present respond in these or similar words:

Thanks be to God.

67. If it seems opportune, the preceding calling by name and the questioning may be omitted and the request made in the following way: One of the candidates in the name of all, or all together, addresses the celebrant in these or similar words:

**We, N.N.,
called by God
and responding to his divine vocation,
we humbly ask you, Father N.,
to be admitted to perpetual profession
in the Congregation of Missionaries,
Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.
We desire to give ourselves to God and
be consecrated to him, to live in the Church,
a life of chastity, poverty and obedience to Jesus Christ
imitating him in prayer, work and suffering,
for the honor and glory of God and universal salvation.
We will strive to reach full maturity in Christ
in this missionary community.
We will dedicate ourselves with love and confidence
to the Immaculate Heart of Mary to obtain this objective
for which the Congregation has been established in the Church.
We ask that you pray for us to the Lord,
through the intercession of our Holy Father Founder
and our Blessed Claretian Martyrs of Barbastro,
that we faithfully observe what we promise today.**

The celebrant and all the members of the community respond with these or similar words:

Thanks be to God.

Homily or address

68. Those to be professed then sit and listen to the homily or address which should develop the scriptural readings and the theme of religious profession as God's gift and the sanctification of those chosen and for the good of the Church and the whole human family.

Examination

69. After the homily, those to be professed stand. The celebrant questions them on their readiness to dedicate themselves to God and to seek perfect charity according to the Constitutions.

Celebrant:

**My dear brothers,
by baptism you died to sin
and were consecrated to God's service.
Are you now resolved to unite yourselves
more closely to God by the bond of perpetual profession?**

They answer:

I am.

Or:

**Yes,
I want to give myself to Him definitively
by the perpetual profession of the evangelical councils
and be consecrated to Him
to dedicate myself to announcing the Gospel.**

Celebrant:

**Are you resolved, with the help of God's grace,
to forever observe perfect chastity, obedience and poverty
imitating Jesus Christ and his Mother, the Virgin Mary?**

They answer:

I am.

Or:

**Yes,
With the help of God's grace,
I consciously and freely commit myself to them,
imitating Jesus Christ and his Mother, the Virgin Mary.
I will observe chastity for the Kingdom of heaven
as a gift and as a sign of my love for God and for all people.
I desire to live poverty as Jesus did
and imitate the Virgin Mary, first among the poor of the Lord,
to seek the kingdom of God which belongs to the poor (CC 24).
In imitation of Jesus Christ, sent to do the will of the father,
and Mary, the servant of the Lord,
my purpose is to do the will of God in the Congregation.**

Celebrant:

**Likewise,
are you resolved, with the help of the Holy Spirit,
to strive to attain perfect charity,
carefully keep the Constitutions
and be faithful to what you promise until death?**

They answer:

I am.

Or:

**Yes,
with the help of the Holy Spirit
and for the rest of my life,
I desire to carefully keep the Constitutions
and strive to love my brothers and sisters
with the same love that God loved them
and win over as many as possible for Christ.**

Celebrant:

**Are you resolved, with God's grace,
to give yourself whole heartily to the work of the Gospel,
even leaving your family
and setting aside anything that would be an impediment
to the vocation of a missionary?**

They answer:

I am.

Or:

**Yes,
I want to dedicate my life to the ministry of the Word
using all possible means
to spread the Good News of the Kingdom throughout the world.
Driven by charity, as a Son of the Immaculate Heart of Mary,
I will strive to bear privations, welcome work, embrace sacrifices
and glory in the cross of Jesus Christ.**

Now the celebrant confirms the intention of those to be professed
in these or similar words:

**May God who has begun the good work in you
bring it to fulfillment
before the day of Christ Jesus.**

Or:

The God of mercy,

**who called you to the life of a Claretian Missionary,
assist you with his grace,
to become more like Christ in his death and resurrection,
and with his Spirit anoint you in fidelity and fortitude,
to evangelize the poor
and announce the Good News of the Kingdom.**

All:

Amen.

Litany

70. All then rise. The celebrant stands, with his hands joined, and says, facing the people:

**Dear friends in Christ,
let us pray to God the almighty Father
to bless these his servants
whom he has called to follow Christ in the religious life,
and strengthen them in their holy purpose.**

71. The deacon gives the sign to kneel.

Let us kneel.

The celebrant, ministers and people kneel. Those to be professed prostrate themselves or kneel according to the custom of the place. During the Easter Season and on all Sundays, all stand except those to be professed.

72. Then the cantors sing the litany for the rite of religious profession and respond. In this litany one or other of the petitions marked with the same letter may be omitted. At the appropriate place there may be inserted invocations of saints especially venerated in the religious community or by the faithful. Other petitions may be added to suit the occasion.

Lord, have mercy	Lord, have mercy
Christ, have mercy	Christ, have mercy
Lord, have mercy	Lord, have mercy
Holy Mary, Mother of God	Pray for us
Saint Michael	Pray for us
Holy angels of God	Pray for us
Saint John the Baptist	Pray for us
Saint Joseph	Pray for us
Saint Peter and Saint Paul	Pray for us
Saint John	Pray for us
All Holy Apostles and Evangelists	Pray for us
Saint Mary Magdalene	Pray for us
Saint Stephen and Saint Lawrence	Pray for us
Saint Agnes	Pray for us
Saint Basil	Pray for us
Saint Augustine	Pray for us

Saint Benedict
Saint Bernard
Saint Francis and Saint Dominic
Saint Ignatius of Loyola
Saint Vincent de Paul
Saint Anthony Mary Claret
Saint John Bosco
Saint Catherine of Siena
Saint Teresa of Jesus
All Holy Men and Women
Lord, be merciful
From all evil
From every sin
From everlasting death
By your coming as man
By your death and rising to new life
By your gift of the Holy Spirit
Be merciful to us sinners

Pray for us
Pray for us
Pray for us
Pray for us
Pray for us
Pray for us
Pray for us
Pray for us
Pray for us
Pray for us
Pray for us
Lord, save your people
Lord, save your people
Lord, save your people
Lord, save your people
Lord, save your people
Lord, save your people
Lord, save your people
Lord, hear our prayer

a) By the self-offering of your servants and their apostolic work, make the life of your Church ever more fruitful.

Lord, hear our prayer.

a) Give in ever greater abundance the gifts of the Holy Spirit to your servant, Pope N., and to all his brother bishops.

Lord, hear our prayer.

b) By the life and labor of all religious promote the welfare of all people.

Lord, hear our prayer.

b) Lead all men and women to the fullness of the Christian life.

Lord, hear our prayer.

c) Grant that in our Congregation the apostolic spirit of Saint Anthony Claret, our Father Founder, may continue to grow.

Lord, hear our prayer.

c) Give to all who profess the Gospel counsels a fuller share in the work of redemption.

Lord, hear our prayer.

d) Reward a hundredfold the parents of your servants for the sacrifices they have made.

Lord, hear our prayer.

**d) Make these servants of yours
more and more like Christ, the
firstborn among many. Lord, hear our prayer.**

**e) Give these servants of yours
the grace of perseverance.**

Lord, hear our prayer.

**e) Bless these brothers of ours,
your servants, make them holy,
and consecrate them
to your service.**

Lord, hear our prayer.

**Jesus, Son of the living God.
Christ, hear us
Lord Jesus, hear our prayer.**

**Lord, hear our prayer.
Christ, hear us
Lord Jesus, hear our prayer.**

73. Then the celebrant alone rises and says, with hands joined:

**Lord, grant the prayers of your people.
Prepare the hearts of your servants
for consecration to your service.
By the grace of the Holy Spirit
purify them from all sin
and set them on fire with your love.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.**

All:

Amen.

The deacon then says:

Let us rise.

All stand.

Profession

74. After the litany, those to be professed come, one by one to the superior, kneel and place a hand in his hands and in a loud voice read the formula of profession prepared in their own handwriting. Two professed religious act as witnesses.

**In answer to God's call, I, N.,
desire to seek his glory more earnestly,
to devote myself to him more fully,
and to follow Christ more closely, as the Apostles did,**

in the ministry of salvation throughout the world.

Therefore, in the presence of God's family gathered here, through your hands Father N.,

**I consecrate myself in the Holy Spirit,
to God the Father, through Jesus Christ his Son,
and I offer myself in special service to the
Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
in order to fulfill the aim for which
this Congregation has been established in the Church.**

**And so, I vow to God CHASTITY, POVERTY AND
OBEDIENCE forever
and I promise to live in the community of apostolic life
of this Congregation of Missionaries, Sons of the
Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
according to its Constitutions,
which I will observe with all possible care.**

**Therefore I ask you, my brothers and sisters,
to be witness to my profession.
Pray for me,
that in serving God and the Church,
I may be faithful to the spirit of our Founder,
Saint Anthony Mary Claret,
and that I may reach the perfection of charity.
Amen.**

If there are many making their profession, the formula of profession may be recited by all together but each individual will say the words: "*And so, I vow to God.....* ending with, ... *observe with all possible care*, thus clearly indicating his personal decision.

75. Then each newly professed may go to the altar and place the formula of profession on it. If it can be done conveniently, each signs the document of profession upon the altar itself, goes back to his place.

76. After the professions, the newly professed standing, or the choir, sing an antiphon or other song expressing the spirit of self-giving and joy, for example:

**Uphold me, Lord, according to your promise and I shall live;
and do not bring to nothing all my hope.**

Or:

**Receive me, Lord, I am you hireling
and the son of your Servant.**

Solemn blessing - consecration of the professed

77. After the profession or song is finished the newly professed kneel while the celebrant and people stand. With hands extended, the celebrant says the prayer of blessing. He may also say the prayers of blessing given in numbers 159-160: *O God, source and origin of all holiness...*, or *God our Father, your holy Church flourishes...*

**God our Father, you are the source of all charity,
out of love you created us
and called us together to a communion of your love.
By sin our friendship was broken,
in the fullness of time
you sent your Son Jesus Christ to the world
for us to be reconciled with you.
Born of the Virgin Mary as man
by the work of the Holy Spirit,
Jesus was anointed by that same Spirit
to evangelize the poor.
Totally dedicated to the work of the Father
he preached the Good News of the Kingdom.
He called those he wanted to live with him
and sent them to preach.
When he completed the work of redemption,
he sent the Holy Spirit upon his Apostles
and sent them to give testimony of the resurrection.
From that time on he has not ceased to call and send
new missionaries to continue the work of salvation.
In more recent times, Father,
you sent Saint Anthony Mary Claret as a missionary
anointed by the Holy Spirit and moved by charity,
and through the intervention of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
he became the Founder and Father of our Congregation of Missionaries.
Lord, look upon these your sons
whom you have called to represent and practice in the Church
the chastity, poverty and obedience of Christ,
dedicated to preaching the Gospel.
Send the Spirit of your Son over them
to sanctify them in the truth
so that Christ may truly live in them
and they may be authentic instruments
to announce by their lives and word the kingdom of heaven.
May they hear and earnestly contemplate your Word
and conserve it in their heart.
May the charity that unites them fraternally
in one heart and one soul be afire in them;
and may they inflame others with that same fire wherever they go.
Sharing the hopes and joys,
and the sorrows and anxieties of others,
principally of the poor,**

**may they strive to use all means
to make you known, loved and served by all.
And after dedicating their life to the service of the Gospel,
may they reach the reward of the Kingdom.
With your help, may they faithfully keep what,
by your grace, they now joyfully promise.**

All:

Amen.

Presentation of the insignia of profession

78. After the blessing the celebrant and the people sit. The newly professed rise and come one by one before the celebrant, who presents them with a crucifix saying:

**Receive the cross of Christ,
sign of salvation;
glory in it and
carry it throughout the world
in the service of the Gospel,
to the glory of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.**

The newly professed answers:

Amen.

And returns to his place.

If there are a large number of professed, the celebrant recites the formula of the presentation of the crucifix only once in a loud voice saying:

**Receive the cross of Christ,
sign of salvation;
glory in it and
carry it throughout the world
in the service of the Gospel,
to the glory of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.**

79. Meanwhile, the following antiphon may be sung:

**But may I never boast
except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,
through which the world has been crucified to me,**

and I to the world. (Gal: 6, 14)

Or:

**How happy, Lord, are those who dwell in your house,
who sing your praise for ever.** (Ps 84: 5)

Psalm 84 (Thanksgiving for God's blessings) or some other appropriate song may be sung or recited. The antiphon is repeated after every verse; at the end of the Psalm *Glory to the Father* is not said but only the antiphon. If the presentation of the cross comes to an end before the whole psalm is sung, the psalm is interrupted and the antiphon repeated.

80. If it is customary or seems opportune, when the presentation of the cross is completed, to mark the fact that the newly professed religious have been admitted as lifelong members of the Congregation, the superior may use these or similar words of admission and give the sign of peace (fraternity).

In the name of the Church and the Congregation of the Missionary Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I have received your perpetual vows, made before the people of God. I publicly confirm that you have full membership in the Congregation for ever. Carry out faithfully the mission the Congregation gives you in the name of the Church, and give testimony of what you have professed so that one day you may receive the merited crown.

The members of the Claretian community give their assent saying:

Amen.

The celebrant and the professed members of the community give the traditional embrace or some other customary cultural gesture as a sign of welcome to the Claretian community. The others (family, friends) will do this at the time of the sign of peace.

Meanwhile the choir sings the following antiphon:

**See how good it is, how pleasant,
that brothers live in unity** (*Ps 133: 1*)

with Psalm 133 (How good it is...) sung or recited or another appropriate song.

81. After this the newly professed return to their places and the Mass continues.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

82. During the offertory song, some of the newly professed may bring to the altar the bread, wine and water for the Eucharist.

83. In the Eucharistic prayers, the offering of the professed may be mentioned according to the formulas given for the different canons in the **Roman Missal: *Ritual Mass on the day of perpetual profession.***

84. The celebrant gives the sign of peace to each of the newly professed in the usual way, or according to the custom of the place.

85. After the celebrant has received the body and blood of Christ, the newly professed come to the altar to receive communion, which may be given under both kinds. Then the other participants may receive communion in the same way.

CONCLUDING RITE

86. When the prayer after communion has been said, the newly professed stand before the altar, and the celebrant, facing them, may say:

**May God, the source of all gifts,
fill you with grace,
so that you live faithfully in the grace of your vocation
and build his holy city.**

All:

Amen.

Celebrant:

**May he make each of you a witness and
sign of his love for all people.**

All:

Amen.

**May he who called you here on earth
to follow Christ perfectly,
at the end of your life graciously receive you in heaven.**

All:

Amen.

(Another form of the blessing may be found in no. 161.)

87. Finally, the celebrant blesses the whole congregation:

**May almighty God,
the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit,
bless all of you who have taken part in this celebration.**

All:

Amen.

CHAPTER FOUR

RITE FOR RENEWAL OF VOWS DURING MASS

88. Renewal of vows which is made before perpetual profession takes place during Mass.
89. The rite for the renewal of vows should be conducted with the greatest simplicity.
90. Either the Mass corresponding to the liturgy of the day or the ritual Mass for the day of the renewal of vows is used, in accordance with the rubrics (cf. General Observations nos. 9-11).
91. Generally the superior, who receives the renewal of vows, presides over the Eucharist celebration.
92. Those who renew their profession, their parents, family, friends and brothers in the Congregation may receive communion under both kinds.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

93. In the Liturgy of the Word, all takes place as usual except for the following:
- a) the readings are from the Mass of the day or from the texts set out in nos. 101 - 152 (cf. General Observations 9-10).
 - b) the profession of faith may be omitted, even if prescribed by the rubrics of the day.
94. After the gospel there is a homily, it should comment upon the readings from Scripture and the meaning and the value of religious life is given.

RENEWAL OF VOWS

Prayer for God's grace

95. After the homily the celebrant prays for God's help, saying:

**Let us pray, my dear brothers, to God,
the source of the grace of perseverance,
for these your brothers
who are resolved to renew their vows today
in the presence of the Church.**

All pray for a time in silence. Then the celebrant says:

Lord,

**in your providence
you have called these your servants
to the radical following of Christ
by living the evangelical councils.
In your mercy
grant that they may persevere to the end
along the way of your love
on which they have set out with such joy.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.**

All:

Amen.

Renewal of Profession

96. After the litany, those to be professed come, one by one to the superior, kneel and place a hand in his hands and in a loud voice read the formula of profession in a loud voice. Two professed religious act as witnesses.

**In answer to God's call, I, N.,
desire to seek his glory more earnestly,
to devote myself to him more fully,
and to follow Christ more closely, as the Apostles did,
in the ministry of salvation throughout the world.**

**Therefore, in the presence of God's family gathered
here, through your hands Father N.,
I consecrate myself in the Holy Spirit,
to God the Father, through Jesus Christ his Son,
and I offer myself in special service to the
Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
in order to fulfill the aim for which
this Congregation has been established in the Church.**

**And so, I vow to God CHASTITY, POVERTY AND
OBEDIENCE for one year (*three years*)
and I promise to live in the community of apostolic life
of this Congregation of Missionaries, Sons of the
Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
according to its Constitutions,
which I will observe with all possible care.**

**Therefore I ask you, my brothers and sisters,
to be witness to my profession.
Pray for me, that in serving God and the Church,
I may be faithful to the spirit of our Founder,
Saint Anthony Mary Claret,**

**and that I may reach the perfection of charity.
Amen.**

If there are many renewing their profession, the formula of profession may be recited by all together but each individual will say the words: “*And so, I vow to God.....* ending with, ... *observe with all possible care*, thus clearly indicating his personal decision.

With the professions completed, the celebrant says the following to the professed:

**If you faithfully keep your promise
and are loyal until death,
you will receive the hundredfold promised
and you will possess eternal life.**

Conclusion of the rite for the renewal of vows - General Intercessions

97. The rite fittingly concludes with the recitation of the general intercessions (prayer of the faithful). The intercessions may be chosen from nos. 155-157.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

98. It is recommended that those who have renewed their vows may bring the bread, wine, and water to the altar for the Eucharistic sacrifice.

99. The celebrant gives to each of the religious who have renewed their vows the sign of peace in accordance with the custom of the place. If there are many, he gives the sign of peace to the first, who gives it to the rest.

100. After the celebrant has received the body and blood of Christ, the religious who have renewed their profession come to the altar to receive communion under both kinds. The others who have participated in the celebration, receive after the professed.

CHAPTER FIVE

OTHER TEXTS FOR THE RITES OF RELIGIOUS PROFESSION

A) Biblical Readings

I. READINGS FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

101. Genesis 12: 1-4a

Go from your country to the land that I will show you.

102. 1 Samuel 3: 1-10

Speak, Lord, for your servant hears.

103. 1 Kings 19: 4-9a, 11-15a

Go forth and stand upon the mount before the Lord.

104. 1 Kings 19: 16b, 19-21

Elisha left and ran after Elijah.

105. Is 49: 1-7

I will give you as light to the nations.

106. Jer 1: 4-10

I have put my words in your mouth.

II. RESPONSORIAL PSALMS

107. Psalm 23: 1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6

R/. (4b) Your rod and your staff they comfort me.

108. Psalm 24: 1-2,3-4ab, 5-6,

R/. (6) Such is the generation of those who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

109. Psalm 27: 1, 4, 5, 8b-9abc, 9d and 11

R/. (8b) Your face, Lord, do I seek.

110. Psalm 33: 2-3, 4-5, 11-12, 13-14, 18-19, 20-21

R/. (12b) Blessed is the people whom he has chosen as his heritage.

111. Psalm 34: 2-3,4-5,6-7,8-9 or 10-11, 12-13,14-15,17 and 19

R/. (1a) I will bless the Lord at all times.

or R./ (8a) Taste and see that the Lord is good.

112. Psalm 40: 2 and 4ab, 7-8a, 8b-9,10,12

(8a) I delight to do your will, O my God.

113. Psalm 63: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9

R/. (1) O God, you are my god, my soul thirsts for you.

114. Psalm 84: 3,4,5-6a and 8a, 11, 12

R/. (1) How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of host.

115. Psalm 100: 2, 3, 4, 5

R/. (2c) Come into his presence with singing.

116. Is 48: 10, 11; 54, 8

R/. (10) I have tried you in the furnace of affliction.

III. READINGS FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

117 Acts 2: 42-47

All who believed were together and had all things in common.

118. Acts 4: 32-35

One heart and soul.

119. Romans 1: 1-6

Set apart for the Gospel.

120. Romans 6: 3-11

Walk in newness of life.

121. Romans 12: 1-13

Present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God.

122. 1 Corinthians 1: 4-9

You were called into the fellowship of Jesus Christ our Lord.

123. 1 Corinthians 1: 22-31

We preach Christ crucified, the power of God.

124. Ephesians 1: 3-14

The Father chose us in Christ to be holy and blameless before him.

125. Philippians 2: 1-4

Be united in your convictions and in your love.

126. Philippians 3: 8-14

I count everything as lost because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ.

127. Colossians 3: 1-4

Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

128. Colossians 3: 12-17

Over all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

129. 1 Thessalonians 4: 1-3a, 7-12

The will of God, your sanctification.

130. 1 Peter 1: 3-9

Without having seen him you love him.

131. 1 John 4: 7-16

If we love one another God abides in us.

132. Revelation 3: 14b, 20-22

I will come into him and eat with him, and he with me.

133. Revelation 22: 12-14,16-17,20

Come, Lord Jesus!

IV. ALLELUIA VERSE AND VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL

134. Psalm 133: 1

Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity.

135. Matthew 11: 25

I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to infants.

136. John 13: 34

A new commandment I give you, that you love one another even as I have loved you.

137. John 15: 5

I am the vine and you are the branches. He who abides in me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit.

138. 2 Corinthians 8: 9

Jesus Christ, though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich.

139. Galatians 6: 14

Far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

140. Philippians 3: 8-9

I count everything as loss that I may gain Christ and be found in him.

V. GOSPELS

141. Matthew 11: 25-30

You have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to infants.

142. Matthew 16: 24-27

Whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

143. Matthew 19: 3-12

There are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven.

144. Matthew 19: 16-26

If you would to be perfect, go, sell what you possess and come, follow me.

145. Mark 3: 31-35

Whoever does the will of God is my brother, my sister, and my mother.

146. Mark 10: 24b-30

We have left everything and followed you.

147. Luke 4: 16-22

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me.

148. Luke 9: 57-62

No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.

149. Luke 11: 27-28

Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it.

150. John 12: 24-26

If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it bears much fruit.

151. John 15: 1-8

He who abides in me, and I in him, bears much fruit.

152. John 15: 9-17

You are friends if you do what I command you.

153. John 17: 20-26

I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am

B) Another form for the blessing of water

**Lord God almighty,
 creator of all life, of body and soul,
 we ask you to bless _ this water:
 as we use it in faith forgive our sins
 and save us from all illness
 and the power of evil.**

**Lord, in your mercy give us living water,
 always springing up as a fountain of salvation;
 free us, body and soul, from every danger,
 and admit us to your presence in purity of heart.**

Grant this through Christ our Lord.

All:

Amen.

In paschal time:

**Lord God almighty,
 hear the prayers of your people;
 we celebrate our creation and redemption.
 Hear our prayers and bless _ this water
 which gives fruit fullness to the fields,
 and refreshment and cleansing to man.
 You chose water to show your goodness
 when you led your people to freedom
 through the Red Sea
 and satisfied their thirst in the desert
 with water from the rock.
 Water was the symbol used by the prophets
 to foretell your new covenant with man.
 You made the water of baptism holy
 by Christ's baptism in the Jordan:
 by it you give us a new birth
 and renew us in holiness.
 May this water remind us of our baptism,
 and let us share the joy
 of all who have been baptized at Easter.**

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All:

Amen.

C) Optional General Intercessions

155. For initiation of the novitiate

Introduction:

**Our Claretian community rejoices today
with these, our brothers,
who begin their novitiate;
we pray to almighty God
that he gives them the necessary grace
to discern their vocation and grow in charity.**

Intentions:

— **For the Church, that it may grow daily in holiness
and communicate this sanctity to the world.
We pray to the Lord.**

— **For the pastors of the Church,
that they may faithfully exercise their ministerial duties
according to the image of the eternal high Priest.
We pray to the Lord.**

— **For all religious
that they be faithful to their commitment to the vowed life
and be authentic witnesses and faithful servants of the Gospel.
We pray to the Lord.**

— **For all our brothers in the Congregation
that they remain faithful to the spirit and charism of Saint Anthony Claret
and live the fullness of their missionary vocation in the Church.
We pray to the Lord.**

— **For our community,
that it may increase in charity,
and grow in a Eucharistic, Marian and missionary spirit.
We pray to the Lord.**

— **For our brothers N.N.,
who today begin their journey as professed
so that trusting in divine grace,
they may be open to God's Word, as Mary was,
worthily prepare to consecrate themselves to God
in our Congregation and serve the Church**

**in proclaiming the Word.
We pray to the Lord.**

**— For their parents and families,
that the Lord strengthen their faith
and reward their sacrifices.
We pray to the Lord.**

Prayer:

**O God,
author and giver of a religious vocation,
listen to the prayer of your sons
and grant to these our brothers,
who desire to experience our life,
to know your will,
and for us, to always be faithful in your service.
Through Christ our Lord.**

156. Introduction

a) In the Mass of first profession:

**Today, our community rejoices
because these, our brothers,
have consecrated themselves to God
by their religious profession.
Let us pray to God, our Father,
that they always be at the service of the Gospel
and remain faithful to what they have promised
in the presence of the Church.**

b) In the Mass of the renewal of vows:

**Dear brothers,
let us pray to God our Father for his Church,
for the peace and salvation of the world,
for our own Congregation,
and especially for our brothers
who have renewed their consecration to God,
that they be faithful to what they promised
and give their lives to the work of evangelization.**

157. Intentions

- I.** a) **— For the holy Church of God,
that adorned by the virtues of her children
she may daily be more holy**

and communicate this holiness to God's people.
Let us pray to the Lord.

- b) — **For our holy father the Pope and the other bishops,
that faithfully fulfilling their pastoral ministry,
they may nourish by their word the universal flock of Christ
and be the first to give testimony with their love and concern.**
Let us pray to the Lord.
- c) — **For all priests and pastoral ministers and
those that serve the Church,
that moved by the Spirit,
they may always share the Good News of the Gospel
and give authentic witness to charity.**
Let us pray to the Lord.

-
- II. a) — **For the peace and salvation of the world,
that all religious may be messengers
and servants of the peace of Christ.**
Let us pray to the Lord.
- b) — **For the governments of nations
that they work for the common good, peace
and promote the progress of peoples.**
Let us pray to the Lord.
- c) — **For all who believe in Christ,
that they may listen attentively to God's Word
and always practice the charity
to which they have been called by baptism.**
Let us pray to the Lord.
- d) — **For the poor and suffering,
that Christ's example may always inspire religious
to bring the Good News to the poor,
to care for the sick and to comfort the afflicted.**
Let us pray to the Lord.

-
- III. a) — **For all religious,
that their way of life may be a sign to all
of the future world to come**
Let us pray to the Lord.

- b) — For those who follow the evangelical counsels,
that the law of love may shine in their lives,
and that like the first disciples
they may be one in heart and mind.
Let us pray to the Lord.
- c) — For all religious,
that each one, according to the call of God,
may increase the holiness of the Church
and work to spread God's kingdom.
Let us pray to the Lord.
- d) — For all Claretians,
that following the spirit of Saint Anthony Claret,
they may imitate his missionary virtues,
be inspired by the motherly care
of the Immaculate Heart of Mary,
and be configured with Christ
in the service of the Gospel in the Church.
Let us pray to the Lord.
-

- IV. a) — For these our brothers
who have today bound themselves more closely to God
by religious profession,
that they remain faithful to their promises,
be diligent in prayer, grow in a spirit of penance,
and be zealous in the apostolate.
Let us pray to the Lord.
- b) — For these our brothers who today have
bound themselves more closely to God's service,
that they may grow in the spirit of love
and generous dedication to the mission given them.
Let us pray to the Lord.
- c) — For our brothers
who today have consecrated themselves to Christ, the Lord,
so that imitating our Holy Founder,
they may spend their lives preaching the Gospel
and work for universal salvation.
Let us pray to the Lord.

- d) — For these, our brothers,
**who today have reaffirmed their holy purpose,
so that they may faithfully imitate Christ
poor, virgin and obedient,
and work so that the Church be holier and more missionary,
help the poor and needy,
and give testimony of a life authentically dedicated
to the service of the Gospel.**
Let us pray to the Lord.
- e) — For those who today
**have made profession of the evangelical councils,
so that their religious consecration
may be a stimulus for new vocations
in the Church and for the Congregation.**
Let us pray to the Lord.
- f) — For all Christ's faithful people,
**called to be light and ferment in society,
that the whole Church
may be the light of the world,
and the leaven in its midst
to renew society by holy living and hidden prayer.**
Let us pray to the Lord.
- g) — For all here present,
**that we may be faithful to Christ's teaching
as he calls us to be perfect,
and that we may bear fruit in holiness,
grow into the fullness of Christ,
and meet together in the heavenly Jerusalem.**
Let us pray to the Lord.

158. Concluding prayers

- a) In the Mass of the first profession.

**Lord,
hear the prayers of your people.
Through the intercession of the Immaculate Heart of Mary,
pour forth your Holy Spirit upon these your sons,
called to follow Christ perfectly,
so that they may fulfill, in their whole lives,
what they have promised.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.**

All:

Amen.

b) In the Mass of renewal of vows:

**Lord God,
all holiness is from you.
In your goodness hear the prayers of your family,
and through the intercession of the Heart of Mary,
and your servant Saint Anthony Claret,
pour forth your blessings in abundance
upon these your sons,
so that by your continued help
they may always fulfill the vows
your love has inspired them to renew.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.**

All:

Amen.

D) Another solemn prayer of blessing or consecration of the professed

159. The words in brackets may be omitted to suit the occasion.

**Father in heaven,
source of all holiness,
creator of the human race,
your love for us was so great
that you gave us a share in your own divine life.
Neither the sin of Adam
nor even the sins of the whole world
could alter your loving purpose.**

**In the dawn of history
you gave us Abel as an example of holiness.
Later, from your beloved Hebrew people
you raised up men and women graced with every virtue.
Foremost among them all stands Mary,
the ever-virgin daughter of Zion.
From her pure womb was born Jesus Christ,
your eternal Word,
the Savior of the world.**

**You sent him, Father, as our pattern of holiness.
He became poor to make us rich,
a servant to set us free.
With love no words can tell
he redeemed the world by his paschal mystery
and won from you the gifts of the Spirit
to sanctify his Church.**

**The voice of the Spirit has drawn
countless numbers of your children
to follow in the footsteps of your Son.
They leave all things
to be one with you in the bonds of love
and to give themselves wholly to your service
and the service of all your people.**

**Look with favor, then,
on these who have heard your call.
Send them the Spirit of holiness,
help them to fulfill in faith
what you have enabled them to promise in joy.
Keep always before their eyes Christ, the divine teacher.**

**[Give them perfect chastity,
ungrudging poverty
and wholehearted obedience.
May they glorify you by their humility,
serve you with docility,
and be one with you in fervent love.]**

**May they build up the Church
by the holiness of their lives,
advance the salvation of the world,
and stand as a sign of the blessings that are to come.
Lord, protect and guide these servants of yours.
At the judgment seat of your Son
that you yourself be their great reward.
Give them the joy of vows fulfilled.
Made perfect in your love,
may they rejoice in the communion of your saints
and praise you for ever in their company.**

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All:

Amen.

160. *Or:*

**Lord God,
source of holiness and growth in your Church,
all creation owes you its debt of praise.
In the beginning of time
you created the world to share your joy.
When it lay broken by Adam's sin,
you promised a new heaven and a new earth.
You entrusted the earth to the care of men and women
to be made fruitful by their work.
Living in this world they were to direct their steps
to the heavenly city.
By your sacraments
you make us your children
and welcome us into your Church;
you distribute among us
the many gifts of your Spirit.
Some serve you in chaste marriage,
others forego marriage for the sake of your kingdom.
Sharing all things in common,
with one heart and mind in the bond of love,
they become a sign of the communion of heaven.**

**Father, we pray now,
send your Spirit upon these servants of yours
who have committed themselves
with steadfast faith
to the words of Christ your Son.
Strengthen their understanding
and direct their lives by the teaching of the Gospel.
May the law of love rule in their hearts,
and concern for others distinguish their lives,
so that they may bear witness to you, the one true God,
and to your infinite love for all people.
By their courage in daily trials
may they receive, even in this life,
your promised hundredfold,
and at the end an everlasting reward in heaven.**

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All:

Amen.

E) Another form of blessing at the end of the mass of perpetual profession.

161. Celebrant:

**May God, who is the source of all good intentions,
enlighten your minds and strengthen your hearts.
May he help you to fulfill with steadfast faith
all you have promised.**

All:

Amen.

**May the Lord enable you to journey in the joy of Christ
as you follow along his way,
and may you gladly share each other's burdens.**

All:

Amen.

**May the love of God unite you and make you a true family
praising his name and showing forth Christ's love.**

All:

Amen.

**May almighty God,
the Father, and the Son, _ and the Holy Spirit,
bless all of you who have taken part in these
sacred celebrations.**

All:

Amen.

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