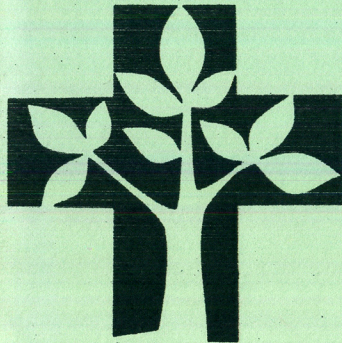




**The Cross is the Tree of Life**



**OCCASIONAL OFFICES**

**OCCASIONAL OFFICES**  
for the use of  
**THE ORDER OF THE HOLY CROSS**  
as approved by the Chapter, 1975

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## THE ADMISSION OF AN ASSOCIATE

It is particularly appropriate that this Office occur during regularly scheduled corporate worship. It may be used before the Offertory at the Eucharist, following the Second Lesson at Morning or Evening Prayer, or following the Hymn at Matins or Vespers.

When this Office occurs as part of another liturgical service, the sections marked (\*) are to be omitted.

The officiant may be a layman.

### \* AN ACT OF PRAISE

Psalm 8, 24, or 93 may be said or sung or any other appropriate psalm or hymn.

### INTRODUCTION

Friends in Christ: We propose at this time to receive       N        
as {an Associate of Holy Cross.  
a member of the Confraternity of the Christian Life} He has  
requested to be a member of the Holy Cross Family, and to live  
by the Rule for associates. We desire to honor his request and  
his commitment. By the power of the Holy Spirit this fellow-  
ship shall be a mutual bond of strength as we witness together  
for Him who is our Lord and Saviour.

\* SCRIPTURE READING

Ecclesiasticus 1:11-20, I John 1:5-8, or Matthew 6:29-31, may be read, or another appropriate lesson or lessons. After the lesson a space of silence may follow.

THE PROMISES

Officiant: My friend in Christ: have you considered the obligations and responsibilities of membership in the  
{Associates of Holy Cross?  
{Confraternity of the Christian Life?}

Associate: I have, and with God's help I intend to share in its life and fellowship.

Officiant: Let the pledge be read and signed, and let us be witnesses to it.

Here the pledge is to be read aloud, signed, and placed on the altar.

Associate: I,     N    , desire to become a member of the Holy Cross Family of prayer and fellowship, and with the help of God, I will endeavor to keep the Rule of the {Associates of Holy Cross.  
{Confraternity of the Christian Life.}

Officiant: You have heard     N     make his commitment. Will all you who witness this pledge uphold and pray for him in the coming years?

Congregation: We will, by God's help.

Officiant: In the name of the Order of the Holy Cross I receive you into the {Associates of Holy Cross  
{Confraternity of the Christian Life}  
and pledge you our prayers and support.

The officiant goes to the Altar to bless the cross.



Officiant: Bless, O Lord, this cross, and grant that he who wears it may ever remember the love of God in the Passion and Resurrection of Christ Jesus our Lord. AMEN.

The officiant hands the cross to the Associate.

Officiant: Receive this cross and bear it faithfully, that you may show forth Christ in the world.

The Associate hangs the cross around his neck.

### THE PRAYERS

\* Kyrie

\* Lord's Prayer

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

Response: And also with you.

Officiant: Let us pray

Almighty God, look with favor upon     N     who has renewed his commitment to follow Christ and to serve in his name. Give him courage, patience, and vision; and strengthen him in his Christian vocation of witness to the world, and of service to his fellowmen: through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

Lord Jesus Christ, you have bound us together in your love and united us in prayer and service. Look with favor on all the Holy Cross Family. Guard us from bodily harm and preserve us in temptation. Bless us in the work which you have given us to do and be ever near us to comfort and support us, that we may live and serve together here in the spirit and power of your Cross, and come at last to our eternal home, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, one God, for ever and ever. AMEN.

## THE BLESSING

**Officiant:** The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son,  
and the Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with  
you always. AMEN.

The Associate may be sprinkled with Holy Water and the Officiant  
and others greet him with the Peace.

## THE RECEPTION OF A POSTULANT

The service takes place at the entrance to the choir.  
The Superior, in his stall, says:

Beloved in Christ: NN, NN, NN have asked to begin the testing of their vocations to the religious life by sharing the work and prayer of this community. In receiving them as postulants, we will offer them our love in Christ, and our help and support as they explore our life. We ask from them in these months whole-heartedness in seeking God's will, and willing acceptance of our guidance. Let us pray for God's blessing on these men and on our community as we receive them.

A period of silence shall follow.

The Superior shall come and face the aspirants.

Superior: My brothers, what do you ask?

Aspirants: I ask to be admitted as a Postulant in the Order of the Holy Cross, to share the life of Christ in this community, and to test my vocation to the Religious Life.

Superior: Will you be faithful in seeking God and His will for your life, and be responsive to the guidance given you?

Aspirants: I will, with God's help.

Superior: Will you hold this community in your prayers and participate in its work and worship, seeking to grow into the fullness of Christ?

Aspirants: By God's help, I will.

Superior: Will you who witness these promises, uphold and pray for these men in the days to come?

Congregation: We will, with God's help.

Superior: In the name of the Order of the Holy Cross, I admit you as postulants in this community. May the life which we share together be always a sign and source of the grace of Christ to us and witness to the world of the love of God in Jesus our Lord.

The Lord be with you.

Response: And also with you.

Superior: Let us pray.

Come, Holy Spirit of God, and bless all our beginnings in You. Enable us so to share our lives that your grace may be seen in us and given to all. Enlighten with your holy fire all our commitments and desires, that the light of truth may shine in us and all darkness be burned away; so that when we shall come to the end of all things we may behold you face to face, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Father, one God, for ever and ever. AMEN.

The new postulants are sprinkled with holy water and given the Peace. They are then conducted to a place in choir.

## THE CLOTHING OF NOVICES

The Superior says:

Beloved in Christ, we propose at this time to receive and clothe NN, NN, NN as novices in our community. We believe that the covenant constituted by this Clothing is for the purpose of learning the life of our Order as we are led by the Spirit of God to live and work and pray for His Kingdom. We hope to receive their gifts as they receive ours, to the mutual strengthening of our common life in the Body of Christ, to the honor and glory of his Name, so that Christ may dwell in us richly as we serve him.

The Postulants leave their choir stalls and stand before the Superior.

Superior: My brothers, what do you desire?

Postulants: I desire to give myself to God in this community, to share in its work and worship, and to learn the ministry of Christ by this commitment.

Superior: Will you promise to learn the life of poverty, chastity, and obedience, following the example and witness of Jesus, and the godly admonitions of your superiors, committing yourselves to the leading of His Spirit?

Postulants: I will, with God's help.



Superior: Read then, in the presence of God, of our brothers, and of all those assembled here, the statement of your intention as you enter the Novitiate of our Order.

Each Postulant then reads, individually:

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen. I, NN, in the presence of God and this community, freely declare my intention to learn the life of poverty, chastity, and obedience in the Order of the Holy Cross; and to open myself to the godly counsel and advice of my brothers, seeking above all things the will of God for my life. I ask from this community guidance, encouragement, and when necessary, forgiveness, and I promise you my generous participation and service for the good of this community and its works. I consider myself bound and consecrated by this promise for so long as I am a novice in this Order.

Superior: Will all you who witness these promises uphold and pray for these persons as they seek to fulfill them?

Congregation: We will, with God's help.

The habits are brought to the altar to be blessed:

Superior: O God who by the death and resurrection of your Son reconsecrated all things for your purpose and called us to use all things for your Glory: Bless now these garments and grant that those who wear them may do so to your honor and glory, in poverty, chastity, and obedience, seeking to grow into the full stature of your Son, who loves us and gave his Life for us, and who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. AMEN.

The habits are given to the Postulants.

Superior: My brother, we give you the habit of this Order as the sign and symbol of the covenant we have with

God through Jesus Christ. Wear it to the glory of God, and may it ever remind you of the witness you bear for Christ and his Church, and of the promises you have made before him.

The Postulants withdraw to change.

Here may be sung the hymn *Magne Pater* or some appropriate hymn. Numbers 356 or 376 are suggested. Or the Superior may say:

Let us offer our silent intercession for this community and for these persons in their vocations.

*Magne Pater*

Holy father, blest Augustine,  
hear our prayers as they ascend;  
where you stand in realms of glory  
near the throne of God, attend;  
to your flock, O faithful shepherd,  
be in Christ our guide and friend.

Holy poverty's true lover,  
all Christ's poor ones hymn your praise;  
truth's own champion and defender,  
loved by all who seek her ways;  
Scripture's God-enlightened teacher,  
all its wealth your pen displays.

Lighting depths obscure and hidden,  
for us you break heavenly bread  
from the doctrine of our Savior,  
from the gracious words he said;  
with the psalms' life-giving nectar  
all who learn of you are fed.

For the choir of white-robed canons  
laws of wisdom you proclaim.  
Those who love your words and keep them  
your sure patronage may claim,  
treading safe the ways of Zion,  
pleading your prevailing name.

Glory to the King of ages,  
praise and triumph, endless reign;  
joining with the choir of angels,  
let us sound the answering strain;  
may we be with blest Augustine  
citizens of heaven's domain. Amen.

After putting on the habit, the new novices return and stand hooded before the Superior at the altar.

Superior: Let us pray.

Come Holy Spirit of God, lead us into all truth and teach us all things; give us open minds and hearts to receive your grace, that putting our trust and hope in you, we may all grow into the fullness of Christ and go from strength to strength in a life of perfect service, seeking only your will and pleasure all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Father, one God, now and for ever.

O God, who called Abraham to a land he did not know and to a promise he had not received; grant these our brothers the grace to be faithful to you in this life and to respond to your call, knowing that faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen; that we may receive with our fathers your divine approval and come to the fullness of your glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

The novices' heads are uncovered, and each is sprinkled with holy water.

Superior: May God Almighty who has led you to our life, honor your commitment and give you grace to persevere according to his will, and in behalf of the Order of the Holy Cross I receive you as novices in this community in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

The Superior says to the Novice Masters:

N , N these men are committed to your charge to learn the life, work and spirit of the Order of the Holy Cross. Be faithful in your witness to our tradition, and in seeking the will of God for them.

Novice Masters: We will, with God's help.

The new novices are given the peace and then return to choir.

## THE FIRST PROFESSION OF ANNUAL VOWS

Following the Gospel at the Eucharist, or the Sermon, if there is one, the novices to be professed come and stand before the Superior, together with the Novice Masters.

N. Master: Father/Brother Superior: NN, NN, NN have lived as novices in the Order and have been trained in the life, work and spirit of our community. I present them to you to be received in profession.

Superior: Beloved in Christ: these men have asked to share the life of the Order of the Holy Cross as brothers in our vow of Poverty, Chastity, and Obedience. Today we admit them to this vow for a period of one year. By this vow, we grant them a share in the responsibilities and privileges that God has given to us, as those dedicated to his love.

My brothers, what do you desire?

Novices: I desire to dedicate my whole life to God and his people in the Order of the Holy Cross. And I wish, of my own free will, to share in this community's life of Poverty, Chastity and Obedience.

Superior: Do you believe that God has called you to make this dedication of your life?

Novices: I do.



Superior: May Almighty God accomplish his work which he has begun in you, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Each novice reads and signs the instrument of profession, and it is placed on the altar. After the service, it is delivered to the Superior.

In the name of God. Amen. I,     N    , (known in the world as     N    ) desiring to consecrate myself fully and entirely in body, soul, and spirit unto the service of our blessed Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, do hereby make unto Almighty God, before the whole Company of heaven, and in the presence of you, my brethren, the three-fold vow of Poverty, Chastity, and Obedience, according to the Rule of the Order of the Holy Cross, steadfastly purposing to keep and observe the same for the space of one year, the Lord being my helper. And herein I humbly pray for the grace and heavenly assistance of the Holy Ghost, and for the intercession of blessed Mary ever-Virgin, and all the saints; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Superior: Will all you who witness these vows uphold and pray for these our brothers in the days to come?

Congregation: We will, with God's help.

The scapulars are then brought to the altar to be blessed.

Superior: O Lord Jesus Christ, who commanded your faithful disciples to take up their cross and follow you, bless these garments that they who wear them in token of your love may find that your yoke is easy and your burden light, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. AMEN.

The Superior gives the scapular to the newly professed.

Superior: Learn from Christ gentleness and humility.

The Superior ties three knots in the girdle.

**Superior:** Commit your life to God and to your brothers in the love of Christ.

The newly professed are then sprinkled with holy water. They rise and are given the peace. The Eucharist continues. At the intercession, the litany on page 27 shall be used.

## THE RENEWAL OF ANNUAL VOWS

The Renewal of Vows occurs immediately before the offertory at the Eucharist, or at some other convenient opportunity.

Officiant: My brother, what do you desire?

Professed: I desire to commit my whole life to God and his people. And I wish of my own free will to renew my dedication to this community's life of Poverty, Chastity, and Obedience.

Officiant: Do you believe that God has called you to make this dedication of your life?

Professed: I do.

Officiant: May Almighty God accomplish his work which he has begun in you, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Professed reads and signs the instrument of profession, as on page 13, and it is placed on the altar. After the service it is delivered to the Superior.

Officiant: Let us pray.  
Almighty God, look with favor upon     N     who has now renewed the dedication of his life to you and your people. Give him courage, patience, and vision,

that he may become ever more and more your faithful servant, through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. AMEN.

The Professed may be sprinkled with holy water and receive the Peace.

## THE PROFESSION OF LIFE VOWS

Following the sermon at the Eucharist, the Superior shall say:

Beloved in Christ: The Order of the Holy Cross has received as a gift and trust from God, the life of Poverty, Chastity, and Obedience in Community. NN, NN, NN have shared our life with us, have been trained by our Community, and have lived with us as brothers in our vow. They have asked to make their commitment to our Order total and life-long, and we today will receive from them a Simple Perpetual Vow, by which is understood a vow for life, irrevocable on the part of the person making it. We welcome them in great joy, for in the offering of these, our brothers we recognise the presence of the Risen Christ in our midst.

The annually professed leave their choir stalls and stand before the Superior.

Superior: My brothers, what do you desire?

Professed: I desire to dedicate my whole life to God and his people in the Order of the Holy Cross. And I desire, of my own free will, to share in this community's life of Poverty, Chastity, and Obedience.



Superior: Do you believe that God has called you to make this dedication of your life?

Professed: I do.

Superior: NN, NN, NN, will you live in the Poverty to which God calls you, regarding nothing as your own, but striving to use all of the good things given us by the Father to his glory and in love of his people?

Professed: With God's help, I will.

Superior: Will you live in Religious Chastity, using this freedom to serve in love, him who has called you?

Professed: I will, with God's help.

Superior: Will you live in Obedience, heeding the godly admonitions of your superiors and committing yourself always to serve not your own will but the will of your heavenly Father?

Professed: I will, the Lord being my helper.

Superior: You have heard our brothers commit their lives wholly to God in the Order of the Holy Cross. Will you who witness these vows uphold and strengthen them in the years ahead?

Congregation: We will, by God's help.

Superior: Read then, in the presence of God, of your community and of all those assembled here, the instrument of your consecration in the Order of the Holy Cross.

The instrument is read and signed, placed on the altar and left there during the remainder of the Eucharist. It is afterwards placed in the Archives.

In the Name of God. Amen. I,     N     (known in the world as     N    ), desiring to consecrate myself fully and entirely in body, soul, and spirit unto the service of our blessed Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, do hereby make unto Almighty God, before the whole Company of heaven, and in the presence of you, my brethren, the three-fold vow of Poverty, Chastity, and Obedience, according to the Rule of the Order of the Holy Cross, steadfastly purposing to keep and observe the same unto my life's end, the Lord being my helper. And herein I humbly pray for the grace and heavenly assistance of the Holy Ghost, and for the intercession of blessed Mary ever-Virgin, and all the saints; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

All then kneel, and a period of silence follows. Then is sung, all kneeling, *Veni Creator*, after which, the Superior and congregation rise, the newly professed remaining kneeling.

*Veni Creator*

Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire,  
and lighten with celestial fire.  
Thou the anointing Spirit art,  
who dost thy sevenfold gifts impart.

Thy blessed unction from above  
is comfort, life, and fire of love.  
Enable with perpetual light  
the dullness of our blinded sight.

Anoint and cheer our soiled face  
with the abundance of thy grace.  
Keep far our foes, give peace at home:  
Where thou art guide, no ill can come.

Teach us to know the Father, Son,  
and thee, of both, to be but One,  
That through the ages all along,  
this may be our endless song:  
Praise to thy eternal merit,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Superior: God and Father of all, we praise you for your infinite love in calling us to be a holy people in the kingdom of your Son, Jesus our Lord, who is the image of your eternal and invisible glory, the first born among many brethren, and the head of the Church. We thank you that by his death he has overcome death, and having ascended into heaven, poured his gifts abundantly upon your people, making some Apostles, some Prophets, some Evangelists, some Pastors and Teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry and the building up of the body. Pour out now, O Father, upon N, N, N the grace of your Holy Spirit. Endue them with holiness of life, constancy of love, and the power of your presence. Strengthen them to proclaim your gospel of salvation, and to give themselves without measure to your kingdom. And in all things, Father, give them that transparency of life which will show forth your glory to the world, proclaim your love to all people, and honor you in all their works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. AMEN.

The Superior addresses each individually, saying:

N, may the Lord, who has begun a good work in you, perform it until the day of Jesus Christ; and by virtue of my office as Superior of this Community,\* I admit you as a member of the Order of the Holy Cross, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Superior goes to the altar to bless the crosses.

O God, whose blessed Son was obedient unto death, even the death of the Cross, bless these crosses, and grant that they who are to receive them may

\* If the Superior has appointed another to receive the vows in his absence, he says, "and by the authority committed to me, I admit you..."

always bear within themselves the very Life, Death and Resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and may bring their whole lives into obedience to him, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. AMEN.

The Superior gives the cross to each newly professed.

Receive this cross, the symbol of the Passion of our Lord and Master Jesus Christ and learn from him death to self and the triumph of Resurrection.

The Superior gives a copy of the Rule to the newly professed.

Receive the Rule of our community. May it guide you in learning true obedience to the will of God, which is both an acceptable sacrifice and a thanksgiving to him.

The newly professed are sprinkled with holy water and then rise. The Superior presents the newly professed to the congregation. The Peace follows. At the intercession, the litany on page 27 shall be used.

## THE INSTALLATION OF AN OFFICER

The Superior, or other officiant, and the newly appointed Officer stand before the altar.

Superior: N you have been chosen to serve this community as (Office). Are you willing to accept this office?

Officer: I am willing.

Superior: Will you be faithful in the fulfillment of your duties, working to build up this community in Christ?

Officer: I will, the Lord being my helper.

Superior: My brothers, will you give N your wholehearted support and assistance in his work as (Office) ?

OHC: We will, with God's help.

Superior: Will all you who are present pray for N in the exercise of his office?

Congregation: By God's help, we will.



Superior: The Lord be with you.

Response: And also with you.

Superior: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have given varied gifts and ministries to your people. Pour out your blessing upon N, now to serve you as (Office), that he may be strengthened in your love and may minister salvation to your people, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. AMEN.

If there is a choir stall appropriate to the office, the new officer is conducted to it.

Superior: In the name of the Order of the Holy Cross, I install you as \_\_\_\_\_. May the Lord bless you and keep you. AMEN.

## THE INSTALLATION OF A SUPERIOR

The service takes place at a celebration of the Eucharist. All are in choir with the retiring Superior in the Superior's stall.

Collect: Almighty Father whose blessed Son prayed for his disciples that they might be one even as you and he are one: Grant that bound together in you we may be united in one body by the one Spirit that we may be witnesses to the world of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. AMEN.

Old Testament Reading: Proverbs 2:1-9

New Testament Reading: Colossians 3:12-17

Gospel: John 13:1-16

At the intercession, the litany provided on page 27 is used. Immediately before the Offertory, the newly elected Superior is conducted by a senior member of the Community to the retiring Superior and stands before him.

Ret. Superior: N, you have been elected by your brothers to the office of Superior of the Order of the Holy Cross. Are you willing to accept this office?

New Superior: I am willing.

Ret. Superior: Will you be faithful in prayer, seeking to discern and obey the will of God for this community?

New Superior: With God's help I will.

Ret. Superior: Will you be faithful in the care of your brothers, seeking to enable them to grow into the measure of the fullness of the stature of Christ?

New Superior: I will, by God's help.

Ret. Superior: Will you be faithful in stewardship for this Community, striving to use the good things given us by the Father to his glory and in the love of his people?

New Superior: With the help of God, I will.

Ret. Superior: My brothers, will you accept N as your Superior, supporting his leadership, obeying his lawful decisions, and praying for him in his ministry?

Community: By God's help, we will.

Ret. Superior: Let us pray.  
Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life; fill, we pray, the heart of N your servant with such love for you and for your people that he may exercise without reproach the

office to which you have called him. May he serve before you always in the ministry of reconciliation and wisely oversee the life and work of this community. And in all things fill him with love, patience, and holiness of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. AMEN.

The retiring Superior places the newly elected Superior in the Superior's stall and says:

N, I install you as Superior of the Order of the Holy Cross. May God bless you and abide with you as you lead us in seeking him.

The retiring Superior presents the new Superior to the Community. The new Superior receives the peace from each member.

The Eucharist continues.

## AN INTERCESSION LITANY

We humbly pray that you will hear us, and that you will send peace to the whole world, which you have reconciled to yourself by the ministry of your Son, Jesus, we pray to you, Lord.

LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER.

That you will guide all civil authority to establish justice and maintain it for all men, we pray to you, Lord.

LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER.

That you will give to \_\_\_\_\_, our Presiding Bishop, \_\_\_\_\_, our Bishops, \_\_\_\_\_, our Bishop Visitor, and \_\_\_\_\_, our Superior, grace and wisdom for guiding your people, we pray to you, Lord.

LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER.

That you will heal the divisions of your visible Church, that all may be one, we pray to you, Lord.

LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER.

That you will grant to your people the forgiveness of sins, and give us grace to amend our lives, we pray to you, Lord.

LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER.

That you will lead every member of your Church in his particular vocation and ministry to serve you in a true and godly life, we pray to you, Lord.

LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER.

That you will inspire all Religious with your love, that they may hunger for truth and thirst after righteousness, we pray to you, Lord.

LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER.

- \* That you will bless your servants, N, N, N, who have vowed their lives to you, and pour your grace upon them, that they may show forth your love to the world, we pray to you, Lord.

LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER.

- \*\* That you will bless your servant N, our Superior, and through his office and ministry build up this community in Christ, we pray to you, Lord.

LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER.

That we, with (your blessed servant, St. \_\_\_\_\_, and) all your saints who have served you in the past, may be gathered into your unending Kingdom, we pray to you, Lord.

LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER.

- \* For use at professions.

- \*\* For use at the installation of a Superior.



The Celebrant concludes:

O Lord, our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O Lover of men; and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. AMEN.