

The Admission of Novices.

The Constitution of the Third Order states (2.3.c) 'Novicings, Professions and Renewals shall wherever possible, take place within the Eucharist.

The Candidate for Novicing will already be a Postulant

Where a Postulant is to be admitted as a Novice and no Profession or Renewal is to take place within the Eucharist, the admission of Novices follows the reading of the Gospel. When there is a Profession it is strongly recommended that the admission of the Novice takes place following the Cross Prayers at the Third Order Office on the same day. This arrangement will give greater emphasis to both events.

If however it is considered necessary to admit a Novice at a Eucharist when a Profession is also to take place, the admission follows the reading of the Epistle and the introductory paragraphs below are not repeated at beginning of the rite of Profession.

The Officiant will be the Area Minister, or in his/her absence, the Area Formation Guardian or another member of the Area Team.

Following the Gospel, or the Cross Prayers, all sit and the Officiant says;

My brothers and sisters, Franciscans seek always to be conformed to the image of our Lord Jesus Christ, after the example of St Francis. Living in the world, members of the Third Order seem, like him, to make humility, love and joy the pre-eminent notes of their lives. We set before ourselves the three aims of the Society; to spread the knowledge and love of Christ, to promote the way of love and unity with all creation, and to live joyfully a life of simplicity and humble service.

As our Lord Jesus Christ humbled himself to share our human life, so may we leave self behind, that with him, we may be raised by the glory of God the Father.

SILENCE.

In this spirit, will those who wish to be admitted as Novices and have been accepted by the Order now come forward.

Each person to be admitted as a Novice should be presented to the Officiant by his/her Novice Guardian, or the Local Group Convenor, with these words.

I present to you, and to our brothers and sisters N..... who wishes to become a Novice.

The Postulant then declares his/her intention.

I, N..... wish to be admitted as a Novice of the Third Order, furthering the aims of the Order and living in accordance with the Principles and Rule.

I, N... dedicate myself to the service of Our Lord Jesus Christ, and I undertake by God's grace to keep for one year my Rule of Life.

The Officiant receives the Rule of Life, and taking the Postulant's hand says

I admit you, N.... as a Novice of the Third Order of the Society of St Francis. May the Lord accept your offering and give you grace to persevere with joy.

The Officiant then places the Rule of Life on the altar.

The Renewal of Pledge by Novices.

The rubrics relating to the time and place for Renewals are the same as those for the Admission of Novices. For those unable to be present, see the appropriate rubric at the head of The Renewal of Pledge by Professed Tertiaries.

Following the Gospel or the Cross Prayers all sit and the Officiant says

My brothers and sisters, Franciscans seek always to be confirmed to the image of our Lord Jesus Christ, after the example of St Francis. Living in the world, members of the Third Order seek, like him, to make humility, love and joy the pre-eminent notes of their lives. We set before ourselves the three aims of the Society; to spread the knowledge and love of Christ, to promote the way of love and unity with all creation, and to live joyfully a life of simplicity and humble service.

As our Lord Jesus Christ humbled himself to share our human life, so may we leave self behind, that with him we may be raised by the glory of God the Father.

SILENCE

In this spirit will those who wish to renew their pledge as Novices please come forward?

Those renewing their pledge move to stand around the Officiant. All not renewing remain seated.

Do you renew your pledge as a Novice of the Third Order?

Novice(s) ‘ I do, the Lord being my helper.

Then each one says

I, N.... renew my pledge to serve Our Lord Jesus Christ as a Novice of the Third Order of the Society of St Francis and I undertake by God's grace to keep for one year this my Rule of Life.

The Officiant, receiving the Rule(s) of Life

May the Lord accept your offering and give you grace to persevere with joy

The Officiant then places the Rule(s) of Life upon the altar.