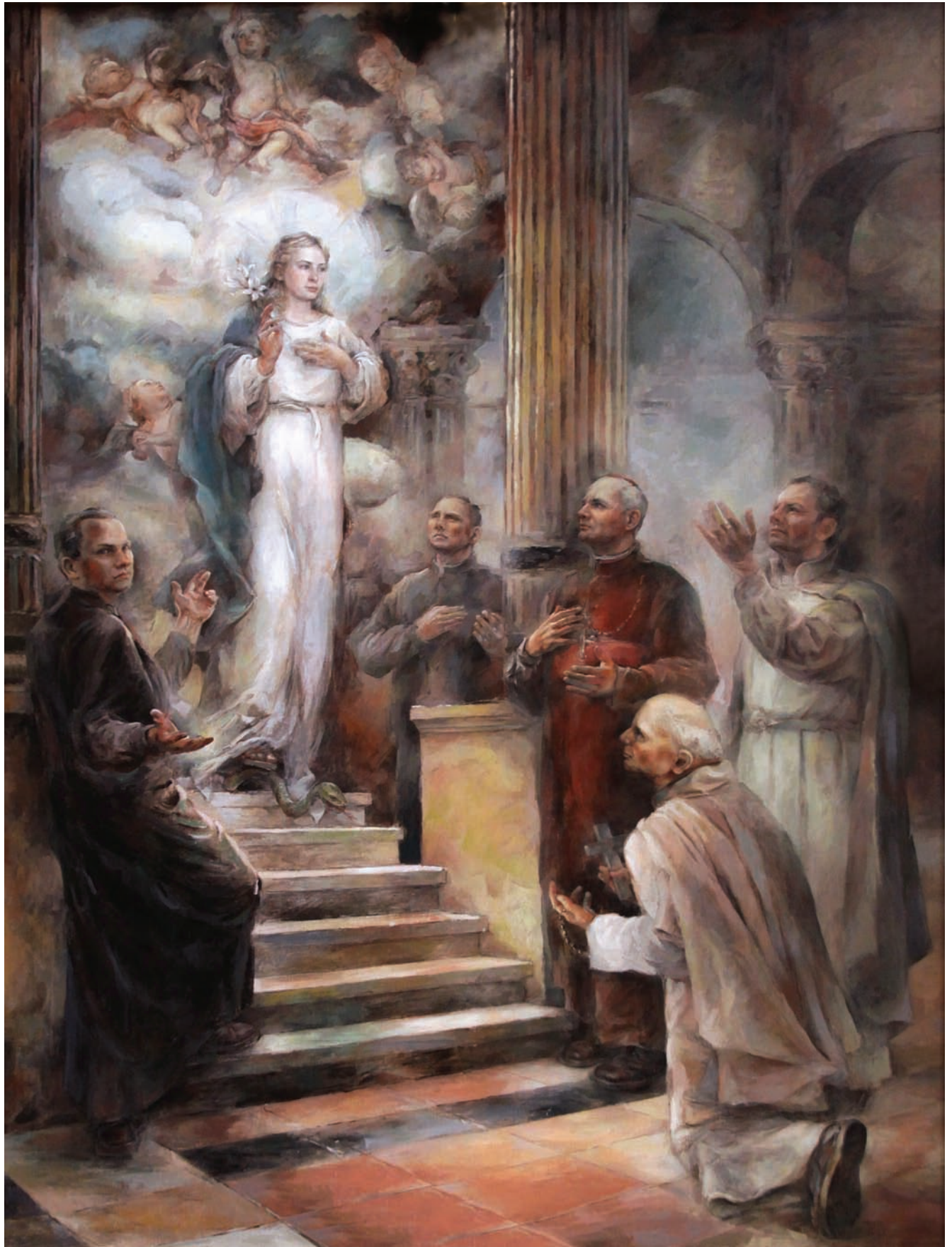




*In the course of the liturgical year the members should strive to direct their attention to those celebrations which correspond to the character and spirituality of the Congregation and are more related to it. In addition to its own patrons, the members should especially venerate the saints of that region in which they live and work. It is recommended that in liturgy they follow the diocesan calendar.*



LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS  
proper for  
THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY,  
MOTHER OF MERCY PROVINCE IN THE U.S.A.



CONGREGATION OF MARIAN FATHERS OF  
THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE B.V.M.



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Stockbridge, Massachusetts, January 27, 2012

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JANUARY 27

BLESSED GEORGE MATULAITIS-MATULEWICZ, BISHOP  
RENOVATOR OF THE CONGREGATION

FEAST

*Cf. Statutes, Decrees, and Recommendations of the B.V.M. Mother of Mercy Province, Part II, No. 5.*

*Blessed George was born on April 13, 1871, in Lugine, Lithuania, then a part of the Russian Empire. As a child, he lost his parents. In his teens, he contracted tuberculosis of the bone that tormented him all his life. He studied in the Seminary of Kielce and of Warsaw, Poland. George was talented and possessed profundity of soul; thus, he was sent to the Ecclesiastical Academy in St. Petersburg, Russia, where he was ordained a priest in 1898. He obtained his doctorate at the University of Fribourg in Switzerland. He taught Catholic social doctrine to workers in Warsaw and the sociology in St. Petersburg, established an orphanage, and helped the poor. Knowing that the Order of the Marians founded in Poland in 1673 was dying out and realizing the indispensable role of religious orders in the life of the Church, he secretly joined it in 1909, and began its adaptation to modern times. He also founded two female religious congregations: the Handmaids of Jesus in the Eucharist and the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary of the Poor. Recognized as an exceptional priest, in 1918 Blessed George was named Bishop of Vilnius. This office brought him much suffering due to ethnic conflicts between the multi-national population of the diocese. He resigned in 1925 and went to Rome. Pope Pius XI named him titular archbishop of Aduli and appointed Apostolic Visitor to Lithuania, where Archbishop George restored confidence in the Holy See, organized a new ecclesial province, and prepared the Concordat. He died in Kaunas, Lithuania, on Jan. 27, 1927, in the opinion of sanctity. On June 28, 1987, Pope St. John Paul II declared him Blessed.*

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON


I COR 9: 22-23

**I** have made myself all things to all men  
in order to save at least some of them.  
In fact, I do all that I do for the sake of the gospel  
in the hope of having a share in its blessings.

Then, when it is prescribed, the Glory to God is said or sung.




## COLLECT

 God,  
 you inflamed the heart of Blessed Archbishop George  
 with an ardent love for Christ and his Church.  
 Grant, we pray, that by his example and through his intercession,  
 we also may remain faithful in the following of Christ  
 and be generous in expending our lives  
 for the building up of his Mystical Body, the Church.  
 Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
 who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
 one God, for ever and ever.

## FIRST READING

*I became the servant of the Church when God made me responsible for delivering his message to you.*

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians **COL 1:24-29**

rothers and sisters:  
 I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake,  
 and in my flesh I am filling up  
 what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ  
 on behalf of his body, which is the Church,  
 of which I am a minister  
 in accordance with God's stewardship given to me  
 to bring to completion for you the word of God,  
 the mystery hidden from ages and from generations past.  
 But now it has been manifested to his holy ones,  
 to whom God chose to make known the riches of the glory  
 of this mystery among the Gentiles;  
 it is Christ in you, the hope for glory.  
 It is he whom we proclaim,  
 admonishing everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom,  
 that we may present everyone perfect in Christ.  
 For this I labor and struggle,  
 in accord with the exercise of his power working within me.  
 The word of the Lord.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10

**R/.** Here am I Lord; I come to do you will.

I have waited, waited for the Lord,  
and he stooped toward me and heard my cry.  
And he put a new song into my mouth,  
a hymn to our God.

**R/.** Here am I Lord; I come to do you will.

Sacrifice or oblation you wished not,  
but ears open to obedience you gave me.  
Holocausts or sin-offerings you sought not;  
then said I, "Behold I come."

**R/.** Here am I Lord; I come to do you will.

"In the written scroll it is prescribed for me,  
to do your will, O my God, is my delight,  
And your law is within my heart!"

**R/.** Here am I Lord; I come to do you will.

I announced your justice in the vast assembly;  
I did not restrain my lips, as you, O Lord, know.

**R/.** Here am I Lord; I come to do you will.

## ALLELUIA VERSE

Lk 4:18-19

**R/.** Alleluia, alleluia.

The Lord sent me to bring Good News to the poor,  
and freedom to prisoners.

**R/.** Alleluia, alleluia.

## GOSPEL

*The harvest is rich but the laborers are few.*

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

LK 10:1-9

**T**he Lord Jesus appointed seventy-two disciples  
whom he sent ahead of him in pairs  
to every town and place he intended to visit.  
He said to them,  
“The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few;  
so ask the master of the harvest  
to send out laborers for his harvest.  
Go on your way;  
behold, I am sending you like lambs among wolves.  
Carry no money bag, no sack, no sandals;  
and greet no one along the way.  
Into whatever house you enter,  
first say, ‘Peace to this household.’  
If a peaceful person lives there,  
your peace will rest on him;  
but if not, it will return to you.  
Stay in the same house and eat and drink what is offered to you,  
for the laborer deserves his payment.  
Do not move about from one house to another.  
Whatever town you enter and they welcome you,  
eat what is set before you,  
cure the sick in it and say to them,  
‘The kingdom of God is at hand for you.’  
The Gospel of the Lord.

## GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

*Celebrant:*

United with Blessed George,  
who intercedes for us in a heroic degree  
and strove to serve “Christ and the Church,”  
we lift up our prayers to Christ,  
the Good Shepherd, who has given his life for his sheep.

*Lector:*

Let us pray together and say: *Hear us, O Lord!*

1. For the Pope, bishops, priests, deacons, and religious, that they would sincerely and generously listen and respond to the word of truth and be witnesses to it in the world, we pray to the Lord:
2. For the Congregation of the Marians of the Immaculate Conception renovated by Blessed George, that they would be faithful to the charism indicated by the Renovator, and grow in merit and number, we pray to the Lord:
3. For all those who share in the life and the charism of the Marians of the Immaculate Conception: relatives, friends, benefactors and Marian Helpers, especially those who are present here today, that the Lord would graciously bestow his goodness and increase the gifts of faith, hope, and love in them, we pray to the Lord:
4. For all of the faithful present here, that the life of Blessed George would inspire them to be faithful followers of Christ in the various circumstances of their lives, we pray to the Lord:
5. For the deceased who await the fullness of joy in the presence of the Lord, that God would fill them with the glory of the beatific vision, we pray to the Lord:
6. May Christ, who in Blessed George has given us a living image of his merciful love, grant that his name may soon be counted in the Album of the Saints for the glory of God, we pray to the Lord:



*Celebrant:*

**L**ord Jesus,  
 you invite us to be ambassadors of the Father,  
 daily living out his will in all things  
 as did your servant Blessed George,  
 who gave himself unselfishly and totally for you and the Church.  
 Grant that your Kingdom would grow in us,  
 around us and through us.  
 We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

**L**ord,  
 accept the gifts your people offer you  
 on this feast of Blessed George.  
 May these gifts bring us your help  
 for which we long.  
 Through Christ our Lord.

**PREFACE OF HOLY PASTORS**

*The presence of holy pastors in the Church*

**V.** The Lord be with you.

**R.** And with your spirit.

**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 and just.

**I**t is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,  
 always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
 Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.  
 For, as on the festival of Blessed George  
 you bid your Church rejoice,

so, too, you strengthen her by the example of his holy life,  
 teach her by his words of preaching,  
 and keep her safe in answer to his prayers.

And so, with the company of Angels and Saints,  
 we sing the hymn of your praise,  
 as without end we acclaim:

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts...

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

JN 10:10

**I** came that they might have life  
 and have it to the full.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**L**ord God,  
 Blessed George loved you  
 and gave himself completely in the service of your Church.  
 May the Eucharist awaken in us that same love.  
 Through Christ our Lord.

Texts for the Mass in honor of Blessed George Matulaitis-Matulewicz were approved by the Sacred Congregation for the Divine Worship and the Discipline of Sacraments, Prot. CD 761/87, May 30, 1987.



FEBRUARY 4

SAINT JOAN OF FRANCE, RELIGIOUS  
MEMORIAL

*Joan of France (de Valois) was born on April 23, 1464. She was a daughter of the King of France, Louis XI and Charlotte of Savoy. Joan, deformed from birth, was despised by her father because of her infirmity and especially because he expected a son. Being only two months old, she was betrothed according to the custom of that time to the two-year old Duke of Orleans. As a young girl she had a vision of Our Lady, in which it was revealed to her that before dying she would found a religious community dedicated to give honor to Our Blessed Mother. When Joan's husband succeeded to the throne of France as Louis XII, she became a queen. However, soon after accession to the throne, the new king had their marriage annulled by the Holy See on the pretext that it was forced upon him and pensioned off his unwanted wife. Having lost the title of the Queen of France in 1498, Joan received from her former spouse the title of the Duchess of Berry. Free at last, Joan devoted herself entirely to prayer and good works. With help from her spiritual director, Blessed Gilbert Nicholas [Gabriel-Maria], the Duchess of Berry proceeded, along with 11 other women, to establish a contemplative Order of the Virgin Mary, also known as the Order of the Annunciades. The Blessed Mother was to be the example for the nuns to follow, and Our Lady's virtues, of which the Holy Scriptures speak, were to represent the rule of their life. The text of the Rule of the Ten Virtues was written by Gilbert Nicholas under Joan's guidance in 1501. The Holy See approved the new Rule on February 12, 1502. Joan died on February 4, 1505, soon after making her religious profession. On June 18, 1742, Pope Benedict XIV declared her Blessed. She was officially canonized by Pope Pius XII in Rome in 1950. The great desire of St. Joan, which was unfulfilled during her lifetime, was to create a male branch of her Order. In a certain way it came through 194 years after her death, when the Congregation of Marian Fathers officially received the Rule of the Ten Virtues adapted for a male community. For 210 years the Marians professed their vows on that Rule until the renovation of the Congregation on November 28, 1910.*

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Ps 52 [51]:10

**I** am like a growing olive tree in the house of God.  
**I** trust in the mercy of God,  
for ever and ever.



## COLLECT

**L**ord,  
 you wished that St. Joan of France  
 found a religious Order dedicated to pleasing God  
 by imitation of the virtues of the Virgin Mary,  
 Mother of Your Son.  
 Grant us, we pray,  
 that we may imitate in our lives  
 the example of these virtues.  
 Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
 who lives and reigns with you  
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
 one God, for ever and ever.

## FIRST READING

*Over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection.*

A reading from the Letter Saint Paul to the Colossians

**COL 3:12-17**

**B**rothers and Sisters:  
 Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved,  
 heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility,  
 gentleness, and patience,  
 bearing with one another and forgiving one another,  
 if one has a grievance against another;  
 as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do.  
 And over all these put on love,  
 that is, the bond of perfection.  
 And let the peace of Christ control your hearts,  
 the peace into which you were also called in the Body.  
 And be thankful.  
 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly,  
 as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another,

singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs  
with gratitude in your hearts to God.  
And whatever you do, in word or in deed,  
do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,  
giving thanks to God the Father through him.  
The word of the Lord.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 131:1, 2, 3

**R/.** In you, Lord, I have found my peace.

O Lord, my heart is not proud,  
nor are my eyes haughty;  
I busy not myself with great things,  
nor with things too sublime for me.

**R/.** In you, Lord, I have found my peace.

Nay rather, I have stilled and quieted  
my soul like a weaned child.

Like a weaned child on its mother's lap,  
so is my soul within me.

**R/.** In you, Lord, I have found my peace.

"O Israel, hope in the Lord  
both now and forever.

**R/.** In you, Lord, I have found my peace.

## ALLELUIA VERSE

Mt 23:11, 12b

**R/.** Alleluia, alleluia.

The greatest among you must be your servant.  
Whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

**R/.** Alleluia, alleluia.

## GOSPEL

*Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.*

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew. **MT 5:1-12a**

**W**hen Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him.

He began to teach them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for their is the Kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,  
for they will inherit the land.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they will be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful,  
for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the clean of heart,  
for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness,  
for theirs in the Kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you  
and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me.

Rejoice and be glad,  
for your reward will be great in heaven.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

## GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

*Celebrant:*

**T**oday  
we celebrate the memorial of Saint Joan of France.  
Let us give glory to God  
who calls us to live according to the Marian Rule.

*Lector:*

Let us pray together and say: *Lord, remember your love!*

1. You predestined Saint Joan of France to found the Order of the Virgin Mary for the glory of God and the salvation of the world; let us learn to pray and labor for the salvation of our brothers and sisters, let us pray to the Lord:
2. You inspired Saint Joan, after the example of Christ, to seek in all things your will and your pleasure; keep us faithful to your Spirit, let us pray to the Lord:
3. You supported Saint Joan in her patience and helped her to keep her peace in the midst of trials; grant us the grace to be good and merciful towards everybody, let us pray to the Lord:
4. You made your ardent love shine through Saint Joan; teach us to make our houses into places radiating prayer, peace, and charity, let us pray to the Lord:
5. Grant your courage and patience to the sick and the afflicted who are associated with your cross, and to all our brethren and friends of our community, let us pray to the Lord:

*Celebrant:*

**H**ear us we pray, O Lord,  
that on this memorial of St. Joan of France,  
you would grant us the grace  
to imitate the virtues of the Blessed Virgin Mary.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.



## PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

**M**ay our gifts please you, O Lord,  
 As the entirely dedicated heart of St. Joan of France  
 knew how to please you perfectly.  
 Through Christ our Lord.

## PREFACE OF HOLY VIRGINS AND RELIGIOUS

*The sign of life consecrated to God*

**V.** The Lord be with you.

**R.** And with your spirit.

**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 and just.

**I**t is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,  
 always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
 Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.  
 For in the Saints who consecrated themselves to Christ  
 for the sake of the Kingdom of Heaven,  
 it is right to celebrate the wonders of your providence,  
 by which you call human nature back to its original holiness  
 and bring it to experience on this earth  
 the gifts you promise in the new world to come.

And so, with all the Angels and Saints,  
 we praise you, as without end we acclaim:

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts...

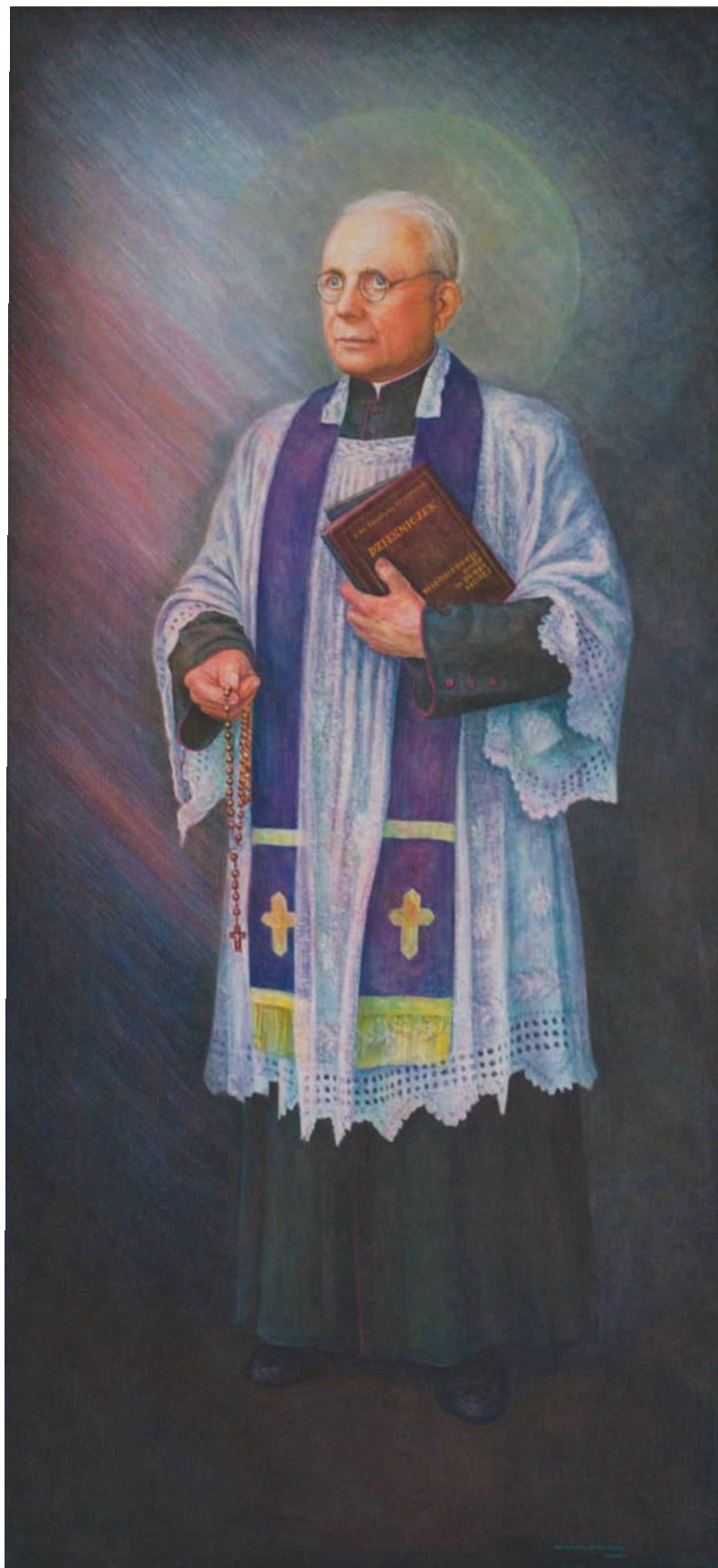
## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Ps 45(44):2

**M**y heart overflows with noble words.  
To the King I address the song I have made.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**N**ow that we've received the token of life eternal,  
we humbly pray, Lord,  
that we may live out the teachings of St. Joan of France:  
To be faithful in our service to you through prayer  
and to nurture a great charity towards our brothers and sisters.  
Through Christ our Lord.



FEBRUARY 15

BLESSED MICHAEL SOPOĆKO, PRIEST  
MEMORIAL

*Father Michael Sopoćko was born November 1, 1888. He graduated from the Major Seminary in Vilnius, Lithuania, where he was ordained a priest in 1912. He fulfilled the duties of a vicar, military chaplain, spiritual director of the seminarians, and university professor. In 1933 he met Sr. Faustina and became her confessor. He was the first among priests to recognize the revelations granted to her. He made efforts to confirm that Sr. Faustina was a trustworthy person and he promoted the Divine Mercy devotion until the end of his life. He told Sr. Faustina to write down her private revelations. The book entitled "Diary" emerged out of these notes. He also made efforts to have painted the image of Merciful Jesus. In 1941, Fr. Michael engaged the help of Fr. Joseph Jarzębowski, MIC, in bringing to the Western Hemisphere the Divine Mercy message and devotion. In 1942, Fr. Michael founded the Congregation of Sisters of Merciful Jesus. After settling in Białystok, Poland, he continued to spread the Divine Mercy by his word and his pen. He demonstrated profound faith, heroic patience, and love, especially for the poor. Under unfavorable circumstances, he gave an example of a true priest, confessor in difficult causes, and promoter of Gospels to various peoples. Saint John Paul II crowned Fr. Sopoćko's work by establishing the Divine Mercy Sunday on the Second Sunday of Easter, by placing Sr. Faustina among the saints, and by explaining in his encyclical "Dives in Misericordia" how the Mercy of God must be understood in Himself and in relation to the world. This way, Bl. Fr. Sopoćko became — next to St. John Paul II and St. Faustina — a part of the triptych of persons who energized devotion to God, who "so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life" (Jn 3:16). Father Sopoćko died on February 15, 1975 in Białystok, Poland, and was beatified there on September 28, 2008.*

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Lk 4:18

**T**he Spirit of the Lord God is upon me,  
because the Lord has anointed me;  
He has sent me to bring glad tidings to the lowly,  
to heal the brokenhearted.

## COLLECT

**A**lmighty and merciful God,  
 you chose the priest Michael,  
 to proclaim the message of your mercy to the world.  
 Grant, we pray,  
 that his faithful ministry may keep bringing abundant fruits of  
 conversion and sanctity to all people.  
 Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
 who lives and reigns with you  
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
 one God, for ever and ever.

## FIRST READING

*The Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring glad tidings to the lowly.*

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

**Is 61; 1-3a**

**T**he Spirit of the Lord God is upon me,  
 because the Lord has anointed me;  
 He has sent me to bring glad tidings to the lowly,  
 to heal the brokenhearted,  
 to proclaim liberty to the captives  
 and release to the prisoners,  
 to announce a year of favor from the Lord  
 and a day of vindication by our God,  
 to comfort all who mourn;  
 to place on those who mourn in Zion  
 a diadem instead of ashes,  
 to give them oil of gladness in place of mourning,  
 a glorious mantle instead of a listless spirit.  
 The word of the Lord.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 21-22, 25 and 27

**R/.** For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

The favors of the Lord I will sing forever;  
through all generations my mouth shall proclaim your faithfulness.  
For you have said, “My kindness is established forever”;  
in heaven you have confirmed your faithfulness.

**R/.** For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

“I have made a covenant with my chosen one,  
I have sworn to David my servant:  
Forever will I confirm your posterity  
and establish your throne for all generations.”

**R/.** For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

“I have found David, my servant;  
with my holy oil I have anointed him,  
that my hand may be always with him,  
and that my arm may make him strong.”

**R/.** For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

“My faithfulness and my mercy shall be with him,  
and through my name shall his horn be exalted.  
He shall say of me, ‘You are my father,  
my God, the Rock, my savior.’”

**R/.** For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

## ALLELUIA VERSE

MT 11:28

**R/.** Alleluia, alleluia.

Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened,  
and I will give you rest, says the Lord.

**R/.** Alleluia, alleluia.



## GOSPEL

*Those who are well do not need a physician; I desire mercy, not sacrifice.*

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew. **MT 9:9-13**

**A**s Jesus passed by,  
 he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the customs post.  
 He said to him, "Follow me."  
 And he got up and followed him.  
 While he was at table in his house,  
 many tax collectors and sinners came  
 and sat with Jesus and his disciples.  
 The Pharisees saw this and said to his disciples,  
 "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"  
 He heard this and said,  
 "Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do.  
 Go and learn the meaning of the words,  
*I desire mercy, not sacrifice.*  
 I did not come to call the righteous but sinner."  
 The Gospel of the Lord.

## GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

*Celebrant:*

**W**ith deep humility and through the intercession of  
 Blessed Michael, confessor, spiritual director,  
 and champion of Divine Mercy,  
 we place our petitions before the Lord.

*Lector:*

Let us pray together and say: *Lord, hear our prayer!*

- I.** For the Church, that she may continue to live out the message of Divine Mercy, which Blessed Michael fervently helped promote, we pray to the Lord:

2. For all spiritual directors, confessors, and military chaplains, that they would sincerely and generously listen and respond to the Divine Mercy message, we pray to the Lord:
3. For all of the faithful present here, that the life of Blessed Michael would inspire them to follow Christ faithfully and trust in the Divine Mercy in the various circumstances of their lives, we pray to the Lord:
4. For all religious educators who promote the teachings of the Catholic Church, we pray to the Lord:
5. For the growth in number of priestly and religious vocations that they may be inspired by Blessed Michael himself as founder of the Congregation of the Sisters of Merciful Jesus, we pray to the Lord:

*Celebrant:*

**H**eavenly Father,  
 you called Blessed Michael to champion  
 the cause of Divine Mercy;  
 ignite within us that same trust  
 in Merciful Jesus.

## PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

**R**ecieve, O Lord, we pray,  
 the offerings placed on your altar  
 in commemoration of Blessed Michael,  
 so that, as you brought him glory,  
 you may, through these sacred mysteries,  
 grant to us your pardon.  
 Through Christ our Lord.

## PREFACE OF HOLY PASTORS

*The presence of holy pastors in the Church*

**V.** The Lord be with you.

**R.** And with your spirit.

**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 and just.

**I**t is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For, as on the festival of Blessed Michael  
you bid your Church rejoice,  
so, too, you strengthen her by the example of his holy life,  
teach her by his words of preaching,  
and keep her safe in answer to his prayers.

And so, with the company of Angels and Saints,  
we sing the hymn of your praise,  
as without end we acclaim:

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts...

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**CF. MT 24:46-47**

**B**lessed is the servant whom the Lord finds watching  
when he comes. Amen, I say to you:  
He will put that servant in charge of all his property.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**M**ake us, who have been nourished  
by this sacred meal, almighty God,  
always follow the example of Blessed Michael  
in serving you with constant devotion  
and assisting all with untiring charity.  
Through Christ our Lord.

Text for the Collect of the Mass in honor of Blessed Michael Sopoćko was approved by the Sacred Congregation for the Divine Worship and the Discipline of Sacraments, on July 25, 2008.



MAY 18

BLESSED STANISLAUS PAPCZYŃSKI, PRIEST  
FOUNDER OF THE CONGREGATION  
FEAST

*Cf. Statutes, Decrees, and Recommendations of the B.V.M. Mother of Mercy Province, Part II, No. 5*

*Blessed Stanislaus of Jesus and Mary was born in 1631, in the village of Podegrodzie, Poland. After finishing his courses in Jesuit and Piarist Colleges in 1654, he entered the Piarist Institute, professed his religious vows, and was ordained a priest in 1661. He became famous as a gifted educator of youth, illustrious preacher, wise spiritual director, and also as an author of works on spirituality and rhetoric. Father Stanislaus worked with great zeal to encourage religious and laity to strive for greater holiness. He left the Piarists in 1670, and in 1673 he founded in Korabiew Forest, Poland, the Congregation of Marian Fathers under the patronage of the Immaculate Conception of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary to promote devotion to the mystery of the Immaculate Conception, as well as to offer intercession for the souls in Purgatory, and to conduct pastoral work, especially among the poor. He was the first to found in the Church a male Order dedicated to the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, nearly two centuries before the proclamation of this dogma. He died in the opinion of holiness on September 17, 1701, in Góra Kalwaria near Warsaw. His remains were laid to rest at the Church of the Cenacle of Our Lord. On June 13, 1992, Pope St. John Paul II confirmed heroicity of virtues of Fr. Stanislaus Papczyński. By his Apostolic Letter of September 12, 2007, Pope Benedict XVI approved the beatification of Fr. Stanislaus, which was solemnly performed at the Marian Shrine in Lichen, Poland, by the papal legate, Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone SDB, Secretary of State, acting on his behalf.*

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

LK 4:18

**T**he Spirit of God is upon me;  
He has anointed me.  
He sent me to bring good news to the poor,  
and to heal the broken-hearted.

Then, when it is prescribed, the Glory to God is said or sung.



## COLLECT

**G**od,  
 in your providence,  
 You have called your priest, Blessed Stanislaus,  
 to make known the honor  
 of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
 and to assist the souls in Purgatory.  
 Following the example of his apostolic life,  
 grant, we pray,  
 that we may also proclaim the fullness of innocence and sanctity  
 of the Mother of your Son,  
 and invoking your mercy for the departed,  
 may we safely arrive at our true homeland.  
 Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
 who lives and reigns with you  
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
 one God, for ever and ever.

## FIRST READING

*Keep watch over yourselves and over the whole flock of which the Holy Spirit has appointed you overseers, in which you tend the Church of God.*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles      **ACTS 20:17-18a, 28-32, 36**

**F**rom Miletus Paul had the presbyters  
 of the Church at Ephesus summoned.  
 When they came to him he addressed them,  
 “Keep watch over yourselves and over the whole flock  
 of which the Holy Spirit has appointed you overseers,  
 in which you tend the Church of God  
 that he acquired with his own Blood.  
 I know that after my departure savage wolves will come among you,  
 and they will not spare the flock.  
 And from your own group,  
 men will come forward perverting the truth  
 to draw the disciples away after them.

So be vigilant and remember that for three years, night and day,  
 I unceasingly admonished each of you with tears.  
 And now I commend you to God  
 and to that gracious word of his that can build you up  
 and give you the inheritance among all who are consecrated.”  
 When he had finished speaking  
 he knelt down and prayed with them all.  
 The word of the Lord.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 7-8, 10

**R/.** Proclaim his marvelous deeds to all the nations.

Sing to the Lord a new song;  
 sing to the Lord, all you lands.  
 Sing to the Lord; bless his name;

**R/.** Proclaim his marvelous deeds to all the nations.

Announce his salvation, day after day.  
 Tell his glory among the nations;  
 Among all peoples, his wondrous deeds.

**R/.** Proclaim his marvelous deeds to all the nations.

Give to the Lord, you families of nations,  
 give to the Lord glory and praise;  
 give to the Lord the glory due his name!

**R/.** Proclaim his marvelous deeds to all the nations.

Say among the nations: The Lord is king.  
 He has made the world firm, not to be moved;  
 He governs the peoples with equity.

**R/.** Proclaim his marvelous deeds to all the nations.

## ALLELUIA VERSE

*R.* Alleluia, alleluia.

The Lord sent me to bring Good News to the poor,  
and freedom to prisoners.

*R.* Alleluia, alleluia.

## GOSPEL

*I shall not call you servants anymore; I call you friends.*

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

**JN 15:9-17**

**J**esus said to his disciples:

“As the Father loves me, so also I love you;

✠ Remain in my love.

If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love,  
just as I have kept my Father’s commandments  
and remain in his love.

“I have told you this so that my joy may be in you,  
and that your joy might be complete.

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

No one has greater love than this,  
to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.

You are my friends if you do what I command you.

I no longer call you slaves,

because a slave does not know what his master is doing;

I have called you friends,

because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father.

It was not you who have chosen me, but I who chose you,

and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain,

so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give you.

This I command you: love one another.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

## GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

*Celebrant:*

**U**nited with Blessed Stanislaus,  
who intercedes for us,  
let us confidently lift up our prayers to Christ,  
the Good Shepherd, / who has given his life for his sheep.

*Lector:*

Let us pray together and say: *Hear us, O Lord!*

1. For the Pope, bishops, and priests, that they would be witnesses in the world and heralds of the Word of truth, sincerely and generously listening and responding to it, we pray to the Lord:
2. For the Congregation of the Marians of the Immaculate Conception founded by Blessed Stanislaus, that they would be faithful to the charism of the Founder, and grow in merit and number before the Lord, we pray to the Lord:
3. For all of those who share in the life and the charism of the Marians of the Immaculate Conception: relatives, friends, benefactors, and Marian Helpers – especially those who are present here today, that the Lord would graciously bestow his goodness on them, and increase the gifts of faith, hope and love in them, we pray to the Lord:
4. For all of the faithful present here, that the life of Blessed Stanislaus would inspire them to follow Christ faithfully and trust in his Immaculate Mother in the various circumstances of their lives, we pray to the Lord:
5. For the deceased who await the fullness of joy in the presence of the Lord, that God would fill them with the glory of the beatific vision to those who do not yet behold it, we pray to the Lord:
6. May Christ, who in Blessed Stanislaus has given us a living image of his merciful love, grant that his name may soon be counted in the Album of the Saints for the Glory of God, we pray to the Lord:

*Celebrant:*

**H**eavenly Father,  
 you called Blessed Stanislaus  
 to found this little Congregation  
 dedicated to Mary's Immaculate Conception  
 and praying for the deceased.  
 Grant the prayers  
 we humbly present to you  
 relying on your Divine Providence.  
 We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

**F**ather of mercy,  
 we have these gifts to offer in honor of your saints  
 who bore witness to your mighty power.  
 May the power of the Eucharist  
 bring us your salvation.  
 Through Christ our Lord.

**PREFACE OF HOLY PASTORS**

*The presence of holy pastors in the Church*

**V.** The Lord be with you.  
**R.** And with your spirit.  
**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 and just.

**I**t is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,  
 always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
 Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For, as on the festival of Blessed Stanislaus  
 you bid your Church rejoice,  
 so, too, you strengthen her by the example of his holy life,  
 teach her by his words of preaching,  
 and keep her safe in answer to his prayers.

And so, with the company of Angels and Saints,  
 we sing the hymn of your praise,  
 as without end we acclaim:

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts...

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

MT 28: 20

**I**, the Lord, am with you always,  
 until the end of the world.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**A**lmighty God,  
 you nurtured us at your holy banquet,  
 grant that we untiringly give you glory  
 and steadfastly help others in fraternal charity,  
 after the example of Blessed Stanislaus.  
 Through Christ our Lord.

Text for the Collect of the Mass in honor of Blessed Stanislaus Papczyński was approved by the Sacred Congregation for the Divine Worship and the Discipline of Sacraments, Prot. No. 337/07/L, August 1, 2007.





JUNE 12

BLESSED ANTHONY LESZCZEWICZ AND BLESSED GEORGE KASZYRA,  
PRIESTS AND MARTYRS  
TOGETHER WITH THE 106 MARTYRS OF WORLD WAR II  
MEMORIAL

*Blessed Anthony Leszczewicz was born on September 30, 1890. He was ordained in 1914. In 1937, he entered the Congregation of Marian Fathers. In accordance with his desire, he was sent to the Marian house in Druya in the Vilnius province, where he dedicated himself to pastoral work, house management, and teaching in the school. After the Germans occupied Druya in 1941, he was made the superior of the Marian mission to Catholics in the former Soviet territories on the other side of the Dvina River. There he conducted evangelization, working together with a group of Marian priests and Sisters Handmaids of Jesus in the Eucharist. During one of retribution actions conducted by the Nazis against the partisan forces, Blessed Anthony chose to remain with the people of Rosica, and on February 17, 1943, he was burned in a barn along with them. He was a very zealous priest, always eager to serve others, much liked, and respected by all.*

*Blessed George Kaszyra was born on April 4, 1904. His family was Belarussian Orthodox. After his mother's conversion to Catholicism, in 1922 he became Catholic. He entered the Marians, and was ordained in 1935. For a year he was in charge of the Marian seminarians in Vilnius. The next two years he worked in Druya as a school prefect and educator of your religious order men. In 1942, Fr. Anthony Leszczewicz summoned him to the Marian mission to Catholics in Belarus. Responding to his summons, Fr. George went to Rosica, where they ran together the mission. Blessed George volunteered to stay with the detainees in Rosica during the Nazi retributions, providing them pastoral ministry and saving them from despair. On February 18, 1943, he was burned in a house with some of the faithful. He was a model of peaceful coexistence and unity between the Catholics and Orthodox.*

*On June 13, 1999, Pope John Paul II beatified Fr. George Kaszyra and Fr. Anthony Leszczewicz as part of a group of 108 World War II martyrs.*

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Wis 3:6-7,9

**A**s gold in the furnace,  
the Lord put his chosen to the test;  
as sacrificial offerings he took them to himself;  
and in due time they will be honored,  
and grace and peace will be with the elect of God.

## COLLECT

**A**lmighty and eternal God,  
 you granted the grace of martyrdom  
 to your Blessed servants, Anthony and George,  
 who at the moment of danger to their lives  
 showed a spirit of love and pastoral zeal  
 by accepting death with their brothers and sisters.  
 Through their intercession,  
 grant us the grace of strength and love,  
 that our daily service to others  
 may build up the Church  
 and lead us to the eternal joy of your saints.  
 Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
 who lives and reigns with you  
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
 one God, for ever and ever.

## FIRST READING

*You redeemed me, true to the greatness of your mercy and of your name.*

A reading from the Book of Sirach

SIR 51:1-8

**I** give you thanks, O Lord and King;  
 I praise you, O God my savior!  
 I will make known your name,  
 for you have been a helper and a protector to me.  
 You have kept back my body from the pit,  
 and from the scourge of a slanderous tongue,  
 from lips that went over to falsehood.  
 And in the sight of those who stood by,  
 you have delivered me,  
 According to the multitude of the mercy of your name,  
 and from them that did roar, prepared to devour me,  
 And from the power of those who sought my life;  
 from many a danger you have saved me,  
 from flames that hemmed me in on every side.

From the midst of unremitting fire when I was not burnt,  
 from the deep belly of the nether world.  
 From deceiving lips and painters of lies,  
 from the arrows of dishonest tongues.  
 My soul was at the point of death,  
 my life was nearing the depths of the nether world.  
 They encompassed me on every side,  
 but there was no one to help me,  
 I looked for one to sustain me, but could find no one.  
 But then I remembered the mercies of the LORD,  
 his kindness through ages past;  
 For he saves those who take refuge in him,  
 and rescues them from every evil.  
 The word of the Lord.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17

**R/.** Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

Be my rock of refuge,  
 a stronghold to give me safety.  
 You are my rock and my fortress;  
 for your name's sake you will lead and guide me.

**R/.** Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

Into your hands, I commend my spirit;  
 you will redeem me, O Lord, O faithful God.

**R/.** Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

I will rejoice and be glad because of your mercy.

**R/.** Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

Rescue me from the clutches of  
 my enemies and my persecutors,  
 Let your face shine upon your servant;  
 save me in your kindness.

**R/.** Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

## ALLELUIA VERSE

2 COR 1:3b-4a

*R.* Alleluia, alleluia.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness,  
for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.

*R.* Alleluia, alleluia.

## GOSPEL

*If a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it produces much fruit.*

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John JN 12:24-26

**J**esus said to his disciples:  
 “Amen, amen, I say to you,  
 unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies,  
 it remains just a grain of wheat;  
 but if it dies, it produces much fruit.  
 Whoever loves his life loses it,  
 and whoever hates his life in this world  
 will preserve it for eternal life.  
 Whoever serves me must follow me,  
 and where I am, there also will my servant be.  
 The Father will honor whoever serves me.”  
 The Gospel of the Lord.

## GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

*Celebrant:*


**R**eflecting on the heroic witness of the Marian martyrs,  
 Blessed Anthony and Blessed George,  
 we lift our hearts to heaven,  
 presenting our needs and petitions to God:

*Lector:*

Let us pray together and say: *Lord, hear our prayer!*

1. For all religious, that they may have the courage and fortitude to overcome the fires of tribulation and give their lives for Christ and the Church, let us pray to the Lord:
2. For ecumenism with our brothers and sisters in the Orthodox faith, that we may grow in understanding, mutual respect, and union as one Church under Christ, let us pray to the Lord:
3. For each of us present, that we may gaze upon the martyrs as models of holiness, and persevere in our faith, so as to attain the crown of everlasting glory, let us pray to the Lord:
4. For the dying, that the Lord would bring them hope and the consolation of the sacraments to strengthen them on their journey, let us pray to the Lord:
5. For all the members of the Association of Marian Helpers and the Confraternity of the Immaculate Conception, both living and deceased, and for all the intentions they have entrusted to us, may the Lord favorably hear their prayers, and strengthen them in faith, hope, and love, let us pray to the Lord:

*Celebrant:*

od,  
 our Heavenly Father,  
 Blesseds Anthony and George chose to lose their lives  
 in order to save others.  
 We ask you to graciously hear all these prayers,  
 we present to you.  
 We ask this through Christ our Lord.



## PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

**R**eceive, we pray, O Lord,  
 the offerings of your people  
 in honor of the passion of your holy Martyrs,  
 and may the gifts  
 that gave Blesseds Anthony and George courage under persecution  
 make us, too, steadfast in all trials.  
 Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## PREFACE I OF HOLY MARTYRS

*The sign and example of martyrdom*

**V.** The Lord be with you.

**R.** And with your spirit.

**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 and just.

**I**t is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,  
 always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
 Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.  
 For the blood of your Blessed Martyrs Anthony and George  
 poured out like Christ's to glorify your name,  
 shows forth your marvelous works,  
 by which in our weakness you perfect your power  
 and on the feeble bestow strength to bear you witness,  
 through Christ our Lord

And so, with the Powers of heaven,  
 and before your majesty,  
 without end we acclaim:

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts...

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**P**reserve in us your gift, O Lord,  
and may what we have received at your hands  
for the feast day of the Blessed Martyrs Anthony and George  
bring us salvation and peace.  
Through Christ our Lord.

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Cf. Mk 8:35

**W**hoever loses his life for my sake  
and for the sake of the Gospel  
will save it, says the Lord.



JULY 10

OUR LADY OF VIRTUES  
MEMORIAL

*This Mass celebrates God the Father who “in his immense goodness” (Preface – Pf), gave the Virgin Mary, Mother of Christ as “a model of holiness” (cf. Entrance Ant. – EA, Comm. Ant. – CA, Lumen Gentium – LG, 65) for the Church. “But while in the most holy Virgin the Church has already reached that perfection whereby she is without spot or wrinkle (cf. Eph 5:27), the followers of Christ still strive to increase in holiness by conquering sin. And so they turn their eyes to Mary who shines forth to the whole community of the elect as the model of virtues” (LG, 65): – **A model of love:** “grant your Church to follow [like Mary] the new commandment, (...) being for all nations the sign of your love” (Collect – C, Prayer after Comm. – PC); – **A model of faith and hope:** “grant your Church to burn with ardent faith, (...) to be strengthened by hope in the glory to come” (PC); – **A model of humility** (cf. C); – **A model of prayer:** the Apostles and first disciples “devoted themselves with one accord to prayer, together with ... and Mary, the mother of Jesus” (Acts 1:14); “she joins in the unanimous prayer with the Apostles” (Pf); – **A model of spiritual devotion:** “In Mary the Church venerates the model of spiritual devotion; so that we can offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God” (Prayer over the Off. – PO, Rom 12:1); – **A model of divine worship:** Pope Paul VI teaches that the Mother of Jesus is a model “of the spiritual attitude with which the Church celebrates and lives the divine mysteries,” (Marialis Cultus – MC, 16); “she is, in fact, the attentive Virgin, a Virgin-Mother, and the Virgin presenting offerings,” (Pf, MC 16-21); a vigilant Virgin who attends the resurrection of Christ (cf. Pf): in short, Mary is “an example for the whole Church in the exercise of divine worship” (MC, 21).*

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. LG

**Y**ou are worthy of praise, O Blessed Virgin Mary:  
From you Christ, our God, was born.  
And you shine in the Church as the model of holiness.

## COLLECT

**L**ord God,  
 in the Blessed Virgin Mary  
 you gave us a perfect example of love and humility.  
 Grant that your Church  
 follow the new commandment like she did,  
 devoting herself to your glory and service to men,  
 and be to all nations a sign of your love.  
 Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
 who lives and reigns with you  
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
 one God for ever and ever.

## FIRST READING

*All these devoted themselves with one accord to prayer with Mary, the mother of Jesus.*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

**ACTS 1:12-14**

**A**fter 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.  
 When they entered the city  
 they went to the upper room where they were staying,  
 Peter and John and James and Andrew,  
 Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew,  
 James, son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot,  
 and Judas, son of James.  
 All these devoted themselves with one accord to prayer,  
 together with some women,  
 and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.  
 The word of the Lord.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 86 (87): 1-2.3, 5. 6-7,86:3

**R/.** Glorious things are said of you, O city of God!  
 The Lord loves the city  
 founded on the holy mountains,  
 Loves the gates of Zion more than any dwelling of Jacob.  
 Glorious things are said of you,  
 O city of God!

**R/.** Glorious things are said of you, O city of God!  
 But of Zion it must be said:  
 “They all were born here.”  
 The Most High confirms this.

**R/.** Glorious things are said of you, O city of God!  
 The Lord notes in the register of the peoples:  
 “This one was born here.”  
 And all sing in their festive dance:  
 “Within you is my true home.”

**R/.** Glorious things are said of you, O city of God!

## ALLELUIA VERSE

**R/.** Alleluia, alleluia.

Blessed is the Virgin, who gave birth to the Lord.  
 Mother of the Church,  
 teach us to preserve the Spirit of your Son.

**R/.** Alleluia, alleluia.



## GOSPEL

*The mother of Jesus was there.*

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

JN 2:1-11

**T**here was a wedding in Cana at Galilee,  
 and the mother of Jesus was there.  
 Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding.  
 When the wine ran short,  
 the mother of Jesus said to him,  
 “They have no wine.”  
 And Jesus said to her,  
 “Woman, how does your concern affect me?  
 My hour has not yet come.”  
 His mother said to the servers,  
 “Do whatever he tells you.”  
 Now there were six stone water jars  
 there for Jewish ceremonial washings,  
 each holding twenty to thirty gallons.  
 Jesus told them,  
 “Fill the jars with water.”  
 So they filled them to the brim.  
 Then he told them,  
 “Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter.”  
 So they took it.  
 And when the headwaiter tasted the water that had become wine,  
 without knowing where it came from,  
 although the servers who had drawn the water knew,  
 the headwaiter called the bridegroom and said to him,  
 “Everyone serves good wine first,  
 and then when people have drunk freely, an inferior one;  
 but you have kept the good wine until now.”  
 Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs in Cana in Galilee  
 and so revealed his glory,  
 and his disciples began to believe in him.  
 The Gospel of the Lord.



## GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

*Celebrant:*

**I**nspired by the radiant beauty of the heavenly virtues  
practiced by the Blessed Virgin Mary,  
we offer to God all of our prayers and petitions:

*Lector:*

Let us pray together and say: *Lord, hear our prayer!*

1. For the Church, that she may see in Mary a shining example of holiness and a model of virtues, let us pray to the Lord:
2. For all religious, that the Mother of God may be their source of inspiration and joy in following Christ along the way of holiness, let us pray to the Lord:
3. That we may shine with the virtues of the Blessed Virgin Mary, especially the virtues of purity, prudence, humility, faith, devotion, obedience, poverty, patience, mercy, and sorrow, let us pray to the Lord:
4. For all Marians, that they may look to Mary as the sign, source, and strength of their vocation and that their lives be full of divine grace, charity, and purity, let us pray to the Lord:
5. For all the members of the Association of Marian Helpers and the Confraternity of the Immaculate Conception, both living and deceased, and for all the intentions they have entrusted to us, may the Lord favorably hear their prayers, and strengthen them in faith, hope, and love, let us pray to the Lord

*Celebrant:*

**G**od,  
our Heavenly Father,  
we hold up to you the eschatological icon of the Church,  
the Blessed Virgin Mary, as our model of virtue.  
We ask through her intercession  
that you will imbue us with her virtues,  
sentiments, and affections.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

## PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

**T**ransform, O Lord, the sacrament of salvation,  
 which we joyfully offer this day  
 when the Church venerates in the Blessed Virgin Mary  
 a model of spiritual devotion;  
 so that we can offer ourselves as a sacrifice,  
 holy and pleasing to you.  
 Through Christ, our Lord.

## PREFACE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

*Mary, Model and Mother of the Church*

**V.** The Lord be with you.

**R.** And with your spirit.

**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 and just.

**I**t is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,  
 always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
 Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God,  
 and to proclaim your greatness with due praise,  
 as we honor the Blessed Virgin Mary.  
 Receiving your Word in her Immaculate Heart,  
 she was found worthy to conceive him in her virgin's womb  
 and, giving birth to the Creator,  
 she nurtured the beginnings of the Church.  
 Standing beside the Cross,  
 she received the testament of divine love  
 and took to herself as sons and daughters  
 all those who by the Death of Christ  
 are born to heavenly life.

As the Apostles awaited the Spirit you had promised,  
 she joined her supplication to the prayers of the disciples  
 and so became the pattern of the Church at prayer.  
 Raised to the glory of heaven,  
 she accompanies your pilgrim Church with a mother's love  
 and watches in kindness over the Church's homeward steps,  
 until the Lord's day shall come in glorious splendor.

And so, with all the Angels and Saints,  
 we praise you, as without end we acclaim:  
 Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts...

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**B**lessed are you, Mary, full of grace:  
 To you we lift our eyes,  
 For you shine to the whole community of the elect  
 As the example of virtues.

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**A**t your holy table, O Lord,  
 we received the Body and Blood of your Son;  
 grant your Church, contemplating the Blessed Virgin Mary, to  
 burn with the zeal of faith,  
 to become rooted in love  
 and strengthened by hope in the glory to come.  
 Through Christ, our Lord.



OCTOBER 5

SAINT MARIA FAUSTINA KOWALSKA, VIRGIN  
MEMORIAL

*Faustina (Helena) Kowalska was born in 1905, in Glogowiec near Lodz, to a large peasant family. After some years of domestic service in wealthy houses, she joined the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy. In the convent, she zealously carried out the duties of cook, gardener, and porter. She led an unusually rich interior life, endowed with many spiritual gifts. Her mission consisted of reminding the whole world about the truth of God's merciful love, communicating a new form of The Divine Mercy devotion, and inspiring religious renewal in the spirit of this devotion. She died in 1938 in Krakow. She left behind a spiritual diary, which is one of the outstanding works of mystical literature.*

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Ps 89(88):2

**T**he mercies of the Lord I will sing for ever.  
With my mouth, I will declare your faithfulness  
through all generations.

COLLECT

**A**lmighty, eternal God,  
you chose Saint Faustina to proclaim  
the immeasurable riches of your mercy.  
Grant that, after her example,  
we may fully trust in your mercy  
and perseveringly perform the works of Christian love.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, forever and ever.

## FIRST READING

*This grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the inscrutable riches of Christ.*

A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians    **EPH 3:8-12, 14-19**

**B**rothers and sisters:

To me, the very least of all the holy ones, this grace was given,  
to preach to the Gentiles the inscrutable riches of Christ,  
and to bring to light for all what is the plan of the mystery  
hidden from ages past in God who created all things,  
so that the manifold wisdom of God  
might now be made known through the Church  
to the principalities and authorities in the heavens.  
This was according to the eternal purpose  
that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord,  
in whom we have boldness of speech  
and confidence of access through faith in him.  
I kneel before the Father,  
from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named,  
that he may grant you in accord with the riches of his glory  
to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in the inner self,  
and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith;  
that you, rooted and grounded in love,  
may have strength to comprehend with all the holy ones  
what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to  
know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge,  
so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 103 (102):1-2.3-4.8-9.11-12 (R.: cf. 8a)

**R/.** The Lord is gracious, full of mercy.

Bless the Lord, O my soul;  
and all my being, bless his holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and forget not all his benefits.

**R/.** The Lord is gracious, full of mercy.

He pardons all your iniquities,  
He heals all your ills,  
He redeems your life from destruction,  
He crowns you with kindness and compassion.

**R/.** The Lord is gracious, full of mercy.

Merciful and gracious is the Lord,  
slow to anger and abounding in kindness.

He will not always chide,  
nor does He keep his wrath forever.

**R/.** The Lord is gracious, full of mercy.

For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
so surpassing is his kindness toward those who fear Him.

As far as the east is from the west,  
so far has He put our transgressions from us.

**R/.** The Lord is gracious, full of mercy.

ALLELUIA VERSE

1 JN 4:10b

**R/.** Alleluia, alleluia.

In this is love: not that we have loved God  
but that He loved us  
and sent His Son as expiation for our sins.

**R/.** Alleluia, alleluia.



## GOSPEL

*Transpierced side of Jesus as a sign of Divine Mercy.*

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

JN 19:31-37

**N**ow since it was preparation day,  
 so that the bodies might not remain on the cross on the sabbath,  
 for the sabbath day of that week was a solemn one,  
 the Jews asked Pilate that their legs be broken  
 and they be taken down.  
 So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first  
 and then of the other one who was crucified with Jesus.  
 But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead,  
 they did not break his legs,  
 but one soldier thrust his lance into his side,  
 and immediately Blood and Water flowed out.  
 An eyewitness has testified, and his testimony is true;  
 he knows that he is speaking the truth,  
 so that you also may believe.  
 For this happened so that the Scripture passage might be fulfilled:  
*Not a bone of him shall be broken.*  
 And again another Scripture says,  
*They shall look on him whom they have pierced.*  
 The Gospel of the Lord.

## GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

*Celebrant:*


**W**ith great humility,  
 and through the intercession of St. Faustina,  
 the secretary and apostle of Divine Mercy,  
 we ask the Lord to hear our prayers:

*Lector:*

Let us pray together and say: *Lord, hear our prayer!*

1. For the Church, that she may embrace the message of Divine Mercy given to us through the writings of St. Faustina, let us pray to the Lord:
2. For priests and religious, that they may grow in holiness and proclaim the message of Divine Mercy to the whole world, let us pray to the Lord:
3. For the sick and the suffering, that God may console and strengthen them through the intercession of St. Faustina, let us pray to the Lord:
4. For the dying, to embrace the mercy of the Lord as their hope of salvation, let us pray to the Lord:
5. For all religious and lay communities, who have St. Faustina as their foundress, that they be living apostles of Divine Mercy to the whole world, let us pray to the Lord:
6. For all the members of the Association of Marian Helpers and the Confraternity of the Immaculate Conception, both living and deceased, and for all the intentions they have entrusted to us, may the Lord favorably hear their prayers, and strengthen them in faith, hope, and love, let us pray to the Lord:

*Celebrant:*

od,  
 our Heavenly Father,  
 St. Faustina loved you with her whole life and being.  
 Through her joyful sacrifice of love  
 and through the intercession of Mary, our Lady of Mercy,  
 we trust that you will hear and answer all our prayers  
 offered through the merciful heart of Jesus.  
 We ask this through Christ our Lord.

## PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

**G**od, our Father,  
 receive the gifts which we offer you with joy,  
 and grant that together with Christ  
 we might become an atoning sacrifice for our sins  
 and those of the whole world.  
 Through Christ our Lord.

## PREFACE OF HOLY VIRGINS AND RELIGIOUS

*The sign of life consecrated to God*

**V.** The Lord be with you.  
**R.** And with your spirit.  
**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 and just.

**I**t is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,  
 always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
 Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For in the Saints who consecrated themselves to Christ  
 for the sake of the Kingdom of Heaven,  
 it is right to celebrate the wonders of your providence,  
 by which you call human nature back to its original holiness  
 and bring it to experience on this earth  
 the gifts you promise in the new world to come.

And so, with all the Angels and Saints,  
 we praise you, as without end we acclaim:

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts...

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**G**od, rich in mercy,  
 may the most Holy Sacrament  
 renew our souls and bodies,  
 so that by the example of Saint Faustina  
 we might carry to the whole world  
 the hope of your mercy.  
 Through Christ our Lord.

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**Ps 118(117): 1**

**L**raise the Lord, for he is good,  
 for his mercy endures forever.

Texts for the Mass in original Latin were approved by the Sacred Congregation for the Sacraments and Divine Worship on March 1, 1993.

English translation: Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, MIC, Vice-Postulator in St. Faustina's Canonization Cause.



## NOVEMBER 16

### BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, QUEEN AND MOTHER OF MERCY, PATRONESS OF THE AMERICAN PROVINCE

#### FEAST

*Cf. Statutes, Decrees, and Recommendations of the B.V.M. Mother of Mercy Province, Part II, No. 3.*

*The title of this formulary comprises two titles frequently attributed to the Blessed Virgin, both of which speak of her graciousness and are much loved by the faithful: “queen of mercy” and “mother of mercy.”*

*The title “queen of mercy” (Ent Ant, OP, B, All) celebrates the kindness, the generosity, the dignity of the Blessed Virgin, who from her place in heaven fulfills the role of Queen Esther (see 1 Reas, Esther 4:17), “never ceasing to pray” to her Son (Pref) for the salvation of her people as they confidently fly to her for refuge in their trials and dangers. The Blessed Virgin is thus the “gracious” and “compassionate” queen (Pref, PAC) “who has herself uniquely known [God’s] loving kindness and stretches out her arms to embrace all who take refuge in her” (Pref; see PAC); hence, she is rightly addressed as “solace of the repentant, hope of the distressed” (Ent Ant).*

*The title “mother of mercy” (OP, A, Pref, POG) is thought to have been first given to the Blessed Virgin by St. Odo († 942), Abbot of Cluny (see Vita Odonis I:9: PL 133:47). It is a fitting title of our Lady both because she brought forth for us Jesus Christ, the visible manifestation of the mercy of the invisible God, and because she is the spiritual mother of the faithful, full of grace and mercy; in the words of St. Lawrence of Brindisi, “the Blessed Virgin is called ‘mother of mercy,’ that is, the most merciful, the most compassionate mother, the most tender mother, the most loving mother” (Mariale, Second sermon on the “Salve Regina,” III:Opera omnia, I, Seminary Press, Padua, 1928, p. 391). For the mother of Jesus from her place in heaven points out the needs of the faithful to her Son, with whom she interceded on earth on behalf of the bridegroom and bride of Cana (see Gos, John 2:1-11).*

*In this formulary the Blessed Virgin is celebrated as **a prophet extolling the mercy of God** (see Gos. Luke 1:39-55): for in her Magnificat she twice praises God’s mercy: “He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation”; “He has come to the help of his servant Israel, for he has remembered his promise of mercy” (Luke 1:50, 54; see Com Ant, B).. The faithful therefore pray that they “may always praise [God’s] mercy in company with the Blessed Virgin” (PAC); **a woman who has uniquely experienced God’s mercy**: “She is the gracious queen who has herself uniquely known [God’s] loving kindness and stretches out her arms to embrace all who ... call upon her help in their distress” (Pref). These words of the preface echo those of Blessed John Paul II: “Mary is ... the one who obtained mercy in a particular and exceptional way, as no other person has...” (Dives in misericordia, 9).*

#### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

**H**ail, Queen of mercy, Mother of Christ in your glory,  
Solace of the repentant, hope of the distressed.

**Then, when it is prescribed, the Glory to God is said or sung.**



## COLLECT

**G**od,  
 whose mercy is without measure,  
 through the prayers of the Blessed Virgin Mary,  
 Mother of Mercy,  
 grant that we may know your loving kindness on earth  
 and come at last to the glory of heaven.  
 Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
 who lives and reigns with you  
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
 one God, for ever and ever.

## FIRST READING

*God is rich in mercy.*

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians

EPH 2:4-10

**B**rothers and sisters:  
 God, who is rich in mercy,  
 because of the great love he had for us,  
 even when we were dead in our transgressions,  
 brought us to life with Christ,  
 raised us up with him,  
 and seated us with him in the heavens in Christ Jesus,  
 that in the ages to come  
 God might show the immeasurable riches of his grace  
 in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.  
 For by grace you have been saved through faith,  
 and this is not from you; it is the gift of God;  
 it is not from works, so no one may boast.  
 For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for good works  
 that God has prepared in advance, that we should live in them.  
 The word of the Lord.



## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 6 and 8, 13 and 17

**R/.** The Lord's kindness is everlasting.

Bless the Lord, O my soul;  
and all my being, bless his holy name.

Bless the Lord, my soul;  
do not forget all the gifts of God.

**R/.** The Lord's kindness is everlasting.

Who pardons all your sins, heals all your ills,  
delivers your life from the pit,  
surrounds you with love and compassion.

**R/.** The Lord's kindness is everlasting.

The Lord does righteous deeds,  
brings justice to all the oppressed.  
Merciful and gracious is the Lord,  
slow to anger, abounding in kindness.

**R/.** The Lord's kindness is everlasting.

As a father has compassion on his children,  
so the Lord has compassion on the faithful.  
But the Lord's kindness is forever  
toward the faithful from age to age.

**R/.** The Lord's kindness is everlasting.

## ALLELUIA

I JN 4:10b

**R/.** Alleluia, alleluia.

Hail, Mother of the Lord, queen of mercy,  
you are comfort for the world and hope for the downcast.

**R/.** Alleluia, alleluia.

## GOSPEL

*The Lord has mercy on those who fear him in every generation.*


✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

LK I:39-55

**M**ary set out  
 and traveled to the hill country in haste  
 to a town of Judah,  
 where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.  
 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting,  
 the infant leaped in her womb,  
 and Elizabeth, filled with the holy Spirit,  
 cried out in a loud voice and said,  
 "Most blessed are you among women,  
 and blessed is the fruit of your womb.  
 And how does this happen to me,  
 that the mother of my Lord should come to me?  
 For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears,  
 the infant in my womb leaped for joy.  
 Blessed are you who believed  
 that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."  
 And Mary said: "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;  
 my spirit rejoices in God my savior.  
 For he has looked upon his handmaid's lowliness;  
 behold, from now on will all ages call me blessed.  
 The Mighty One has done great things for me,  
 and holy is his name.  
 The Lord's mercy is from age to age to those who fear him.  
 The Lord has shown might with his arm,  
 dispersed the arrogant of mind and heart.  
 The Lord has thrown down the rulers from their thrones but  
 lifted up the lowly.  
 The hungry he has filled with good things;  
 the rich he has sent away empty.  
 The Lord has helped Israel his servant,  
 remembering his mercy, according to his promise to our ancestors,  
 to Abraham and to his descendants forever."  
 The Gospel of the Lord.

## GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

*Celebrant:*


od, our Heavenly Father,  
we implore your Divine Mercy upon all mankind  
and ask you to hear our petitions through Mary,  
our Queen and Mother of Mercy:

*Lector:*

Let us pray together and say: *Lord, hear our prayer!*

1. For all Marians in the Mother of Mercy Province, that Mary, who received the fullness of Divine Mercy, may lavish upon her humble servants the grace of God's mercy, let us pray to the Lord:
2. For all our works, ministries, and apostolates in this Province, that they will bear abundant fruit for God and souls, let us pray to the Lord:
3. That we will treat each other with heartfelt compassion and brotherly love after the example of Mary Immaculate, let us pray to the Lord:
4. For all men in formation, that the Mother of Mercy may embrace, guide, and lead them under her tender motherly care, let us pray to the Lord:
5. For an increase in religious vocations to our Province, that we may grow in merit and number before God and Our Lady, let us pray to the Lord:
6. For all the members of the Association of Marian Helpers and the Confraternity of the Immaculate Conception, both living and deceased, and for all the intentions they have entrusted to us, may the Lord favorably hear their prayers, and strengthen them in faith, hope, and love, let us pray to the Lord:

*Celebrant:*

od, our Heavenly Father,  
we give thanks  
for the immeasurable love and mercy bestowed upon our Province  
and each of us through the maternal intercession of Mary.  
Hear the prayers of your children  
through the intercession of our merciful Mother.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

## PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

**L**ord,  
 receive the gifts of your people,  
 and grant that as we look up to the Blessed Virgin,  
 Mother of Mercy,  
 we may show ourselves merciful to others  
 and receive your pardon toward us.  
 Through Christ our Lord.

## PREFACE OF MARY, QUEEN AND MOTHER OF MERCY

*The Blessed Virgin is Queen of Pity and Mother of Mercy*

**V.** The Lord be with you.

**R.** And with your spirit.

**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 and just.

**I**t is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,  
 always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
 Lord, holy Father, and, as we celebrate the memory of the  
 Blessed Virgin Mary,  
 to proclaim with fitting praise  
 the greatness of your name.  
 She is the gracious queen  
 who has herself uniquely known your loving kindness  
 and stretches out her arms  
 to embrace all who take refuge in her  
 and call upon her help in their distress.

She is the Mother of mercy,  
 always attentive to the voice of her children,  
 seeking to win your compassion for them,  
 and asking your forgiveness for their sins.

She is the handmaid of your love,  
 never ceasing to pray for us to your Son,  
 that he may enrich our poverty with his grace  
 and strengthen our weakness with his power.

Through him the Angels of heaven  
 offer their prayer of adoration  
 as they rejoice in your presence for ever.

May our voices be one with theirs  
 in their triumphant hymn of praise:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts ...

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

LK 1:49-50

**T**he Almighty has done great things for me,  
 and holy is his Name.  
 He has mercy on those  
 who fear him in every generation.

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**L**ord God,  
 you have given us food and drink from heaven;  
 grant that we may always praise your mercy  
 in company with the Blessed Virgin  
 and rejoice in her protection,  
 for we acknowledge her as our Queen,  
 compassionate to sinners  
 and merciful to the poor.  
 Through Christ our Lord.



## THE ORDER OF MASS





## THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

- I. When the people are gathered, the Priest approaches the altar with the ministers while the Entrance Chant is sung.

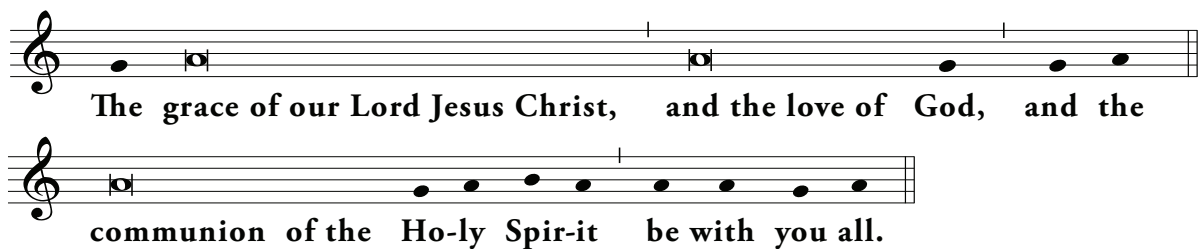
When he has arrived at the altar, after making a profound bow with the ministers, the Priest venerates the altar with a kiss and, if appropriate, incenses the cross and the altar. Then, with the ministers, he goes to the chair.

When the Entrance Chant is concluded, the Priest and the faithful, standing, sign themselves with the Sign of the Cross, while the Priest, facing the people, says:



**I**n the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

The people reply:



2. Then the Priest, extending his hands, greets the people, saying:

**T**he grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit  
be with you all.

Or:



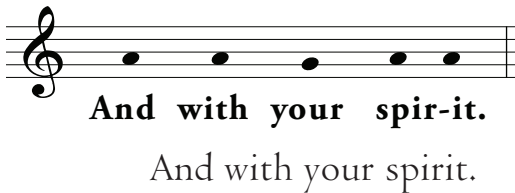
**G**race to you and peace from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Or:



**T**he Lord be with you.

The people reply:




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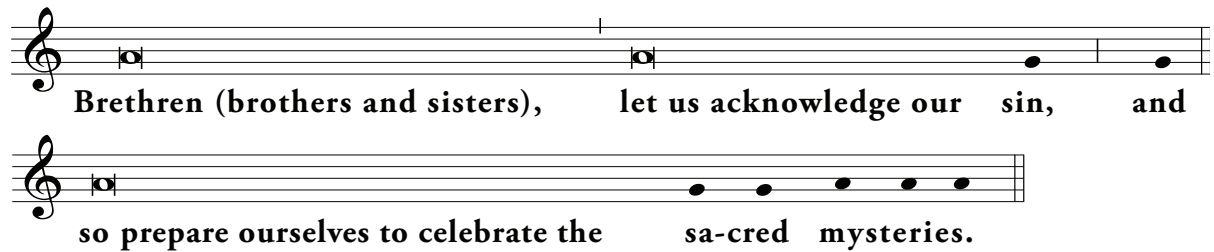
In this first greeting, a Bishop, in place of The Lord be with you, says:



**P**ease be with you.

3. The Priest, or a Deacon, or another minister, may very briefly introduce the faithful to the Mass of the day.

4. Then follows the Penitential Act, to which the Priest invites the faithful, saying:



**B**rethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins,  
and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

A brief pause for silence follows. Then all recite together the formula of general confession:

**I** confess to almighty God  
and to you, my brothers and sisters,  
that I have greatly sinned  
in my thoughts and in my words,  
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,

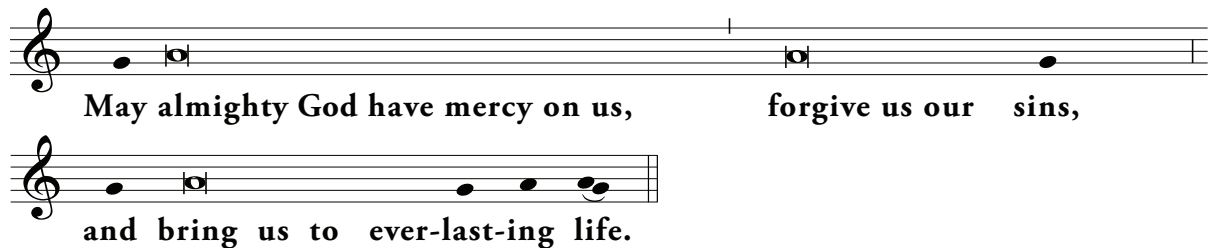
And, striking their breast, they say:

through my fault, through my fault,  
through my most grievous fault;

Then they continue:

therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,  
all the Angels and Saints,  
and you, my brothers and sisters,  
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

The absolution by the Priest follows:



**M**ay almighty God have mercy on us,  
forgive us our sins,  
and brings us to everlasting life.

The people reply:



**A - men.**

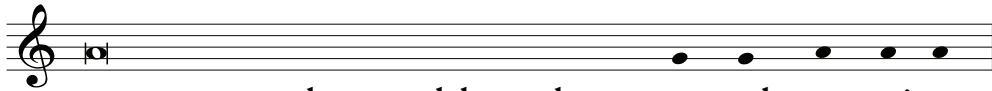
Amen.

Or:

5. The Priest invites the faithful to make the Penitential Act:



Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sin, and

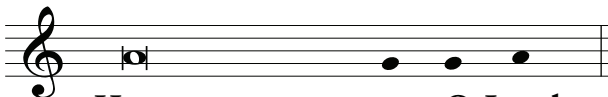


so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sa-cred mysteries.

**B**rethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins,  
and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

A brief pause for silence follows.

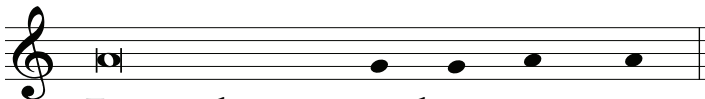
The Priest then says:



Have mercy on us, O Lord.

**H**ave mercy on us, O Lord.

The people reply:



For we have sinned a - gainst you.

For we have sinned against you.

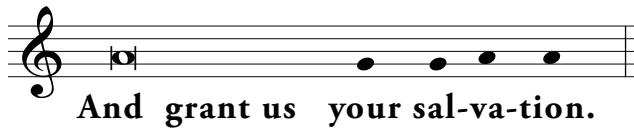
The Priest:



Show us, O Lord, your mer-cy.

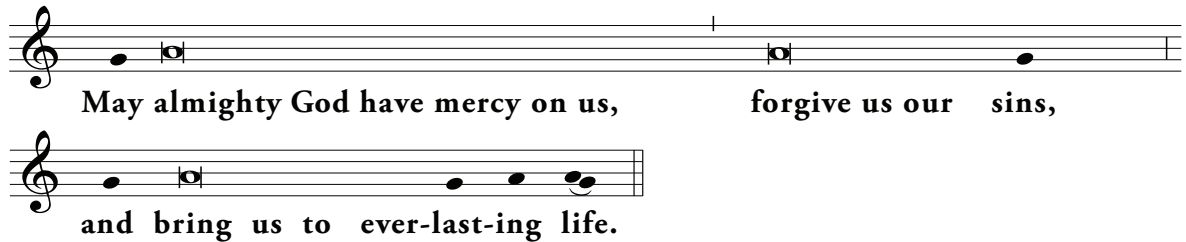
**S**how us, O Lord, your mercy.

The people:



And grant us your salvation.

The absolution by the Priest follows:



**M**ay the almighty God have mercy on us,  
forgive us our sins,  
and brings us to everlasting life.

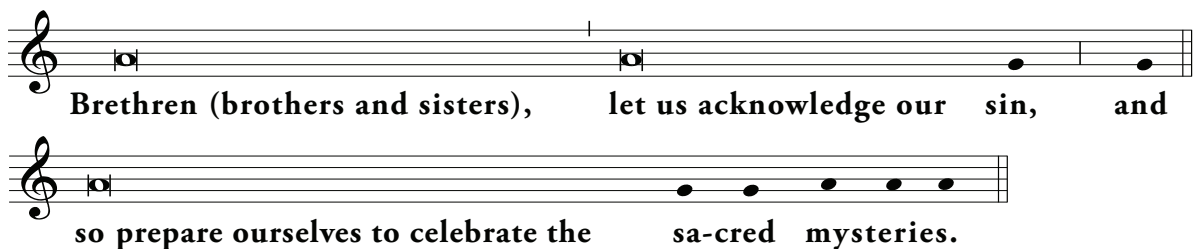
The people reply:



Amen.

Or:

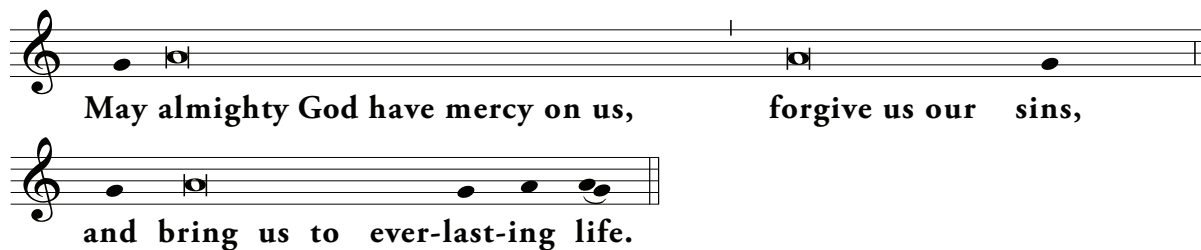
6. The Priest invites the faithful to make the Penitential Act:



**B**rethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins,  
and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

A brief pause for silence follows.

The absolution by the Priest follows:



The people reply:



Amen.

The Priest, or a Deacon or another minister, then says the following or other invocations with Kyrie, eleison (Lord, have mercy):

You were sent to heal the contrite of heart:

Lord, have mercy.

Or:

Kyrie, eleison.

The people reply:

Lord, have mercy.

Or:

Kyrie, eleison.

The Priest:

You came to call sinner:

Christ, have mercy.

Or:

Christe, eleison.

The people:

Christ, have mercy.

Or:

Christe, eleison.

The Priest:

You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us:

Lord, have mercy.

Or:

Kyrie, eleison.

The people reply:

Lord, have mercy.

Or:

Kyrie, eleison.

The absolution by the Priest follows:

**M**ay almighty God have mercy on us,  
forgive us our sins,  
and brings us to everlasting life.

The people reply:

Amen.



**G**lory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,  
we bless you,  
we adore you,  
we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.

7. When this hymn is concluded, the Priest, with hands joined, says:

**L**et us pray.

And all pray in silence with the Priest for a while.

8. Then the Priest, with hands extended, says the Collect prayer, at the end of which the people acclaim:

Amen.

**I** believe in one God,  
 the Father almighty,  
 maker of heaven and earth,  
 of all things visible and invisible.  
 I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
 the only Begotten Son of God,  
 born of the Father before all ages.  
 God from God, Light from Light,  
 true God from true God,  
 begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;  
 through him all things were made.  
 For us men and for our salvation  
 he came down from heaven.

*All the words that follow, up to and including and became man, all bow.*

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,  
 and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,  
 he suffered death, and was buried,  
 and rose again on the third day  
 in accordance with the Scriptures.  
 He ascended into heaven  
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
 He will come again in glory  
 to judge the living and the dead  
 and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
 who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,  
 who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.  
 I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
 And I look forward to the resurrection of the dead  
 and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

9. When all this has been done, the Offertory Chant begins. Meanwhile, the ministers place the corporal, the purificator, the chalice, the pall, and the Missal on the altar.
10. It is desirable that the faithful express their participation by making an offering, bringing forward bread and wine for the celebration of the Eucharist and perhaps other gifts to relieve the needs of the Church and of the poor.
11. The Priest, standing at the altar, takes the paten with the bread and holds it slightly raised above the altar with both hands, saying in a low voice:

**B**lessed are you, Lord God of all creation,  
 for through your goodness we have received  
 the bread we offer you:  
 fruit of the earth and work of human hands,  
 it will become for us the bread of life.

Then he places the paten with the bread on the corporal.

If, however, the Offertory Chant is not sung, the Priest may speak these words aloud; at the end, the people may acclaim:

Blessed be God for ever.

12. The Deacon, or the Priest, pours wine and a little water into the chalice, saying quietly:

**B**y the mystery of this water and wine  
 may we come to share in the divinity of Christ  
 who humbled himself to share in our humanity.

13. The Priest then takes the chalice and holds it slightly raised above the altar with both hands, saying in a low voice:

**B**lessed are you, Lord, God of all creation,  
 for through your goodness we have received  
 the wine we offer you:  
 fruit of the vine and work of human hands,  
 it will become our spiritual drink.

Then he places the chalice on the corporal.

If, however, the Offertory Chant is not sung, the Priest may speak these words aloud; at the end, the people may acclaim:

Blessed be God for ever.

14. After this, the Priest, bowing profoundly, says quietly:

**W**ith humble spirit and contrite heart  
 may we be accepted by you, O Lord,

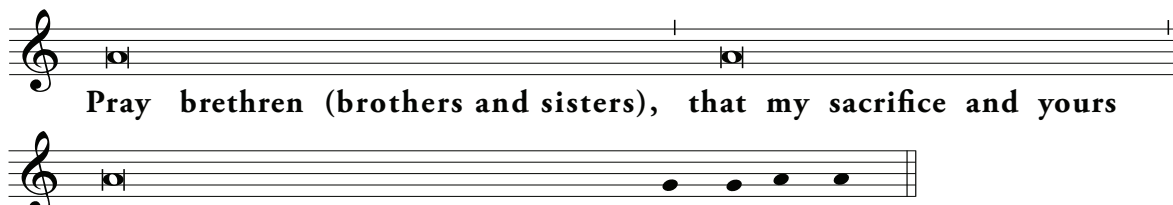
and may our sacrifice in your sight this day  
be pleasing to you, Lord God.

15. If appropriate, he also incenses the offerings, the cross, and the altar. A Deacon or other minister then incenses the Priest and the people.

16. Then the Priest, standing at the side of the altar, washes his hands, saying quietly:

**W**ash me, O Lord from my iniquity  
and cleanse me from my sin.

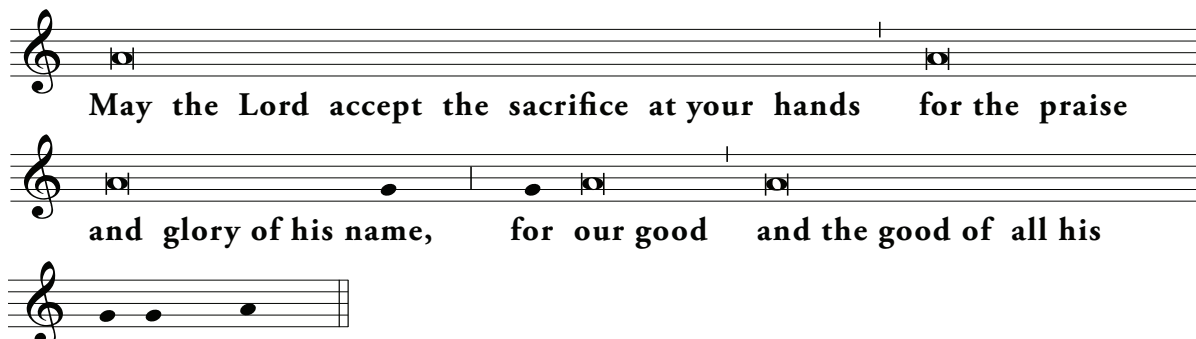
17. Standing at the middle of the altar; facing the people, extending and then joining his hands; he says:



Pray brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours  
may be acceptable to God, the al- might -y Fa- ther.

**P**ray, brethren (brothers and sisters),  
that my sacrifice and yours  
may be acceptable to God,  
the almighty Father.

The people rise and reply:



May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise  
and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his  
ho-ly Church.

**M**ay the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands  
for the praise and glory of his name,  
for our good  
and the good of all his holy Church.

18. Then the Priest, with hands extended, says the Prayer over the Offerings, at the end of which the people acclaim:

Amen.

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER II

19. Although it is provided with its own Preface, this Eucharistic Prayer may also be used with other prefaces, especially those that present an overall view of the mystery of salvation, such as the Common Prefaces.

**V.:** The Lord be with you.

**R.:** And with your spirit.

**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 and just.

**I**t is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks, Father most holy,  
through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ,  
your Word through whom you made all things,  
whom you sent as our Saviour and Redeemer,  
incarnate by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin.  
Fulfilling your will and gaining for you a holy people,  
he stretched out his hands as he endured his Passion,  
so as to break the bonds of death and manifest the resurrection.

And so, with the Angels and al the Saints  
we declare your glory,  
as with one voice we acclaim:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord,

Hosanna in the highest.

20. The Priest, with hands extended, says:

**Y**ou are indeed Holy, O Lord,  
the fount of all holiness.

Celebrant alone


21. He joins his hands and, holding them extended over the offerings, says:

**M**ake holy, therefore, these gifts, we pray,  
by sending down your Spirit upon them like the dewfall,

Celebrant with  
concelebrants

He joins his hands

and makes the Sign of the Cross once over the bread and the chalice together, saying:

so that they may become for us  
the Body and  Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

He joins his hands.

22. In the formulas that follow, the words of the Lord should be pronounced clearly and distinctly, as the nature of these words requires.

**A**t the time he was betrayed  
and entered willingly into his Passion,

He takes the bread

and, holding it slightly raised above the altar, continues:

he took the bread and, giving thanks, broke it  
and gave it to his disciples, saying:

He bows slightly.

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT,  
FOR THIS IS MY BODY,  
WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.

He shows the consecrated host to the people, places it again on the paten, and genuflects in adoration.

After this, he continues:

**I**n a similar way, when supper was ended,

He takes the chalice

and, holding it slightly raised above the altar, continues:

he took the chalice  
and once more giving thanks,  
he gave it to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT,  
FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD,  
THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT,  
WHICH WILL BE POURED OUT FOR YOU AND FOR MANY  
FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.  
DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.

He shows the chalice to the people, places it on the corporal, and genuflects  
in adoration.

23. Then he says:



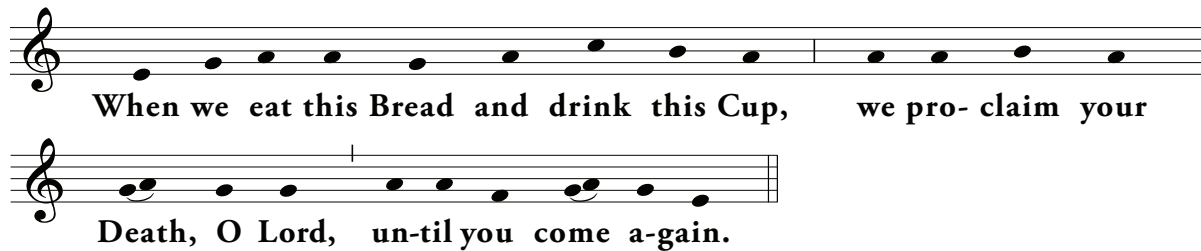
**T**he mystery of faith.

And the people continue, acclaiming:



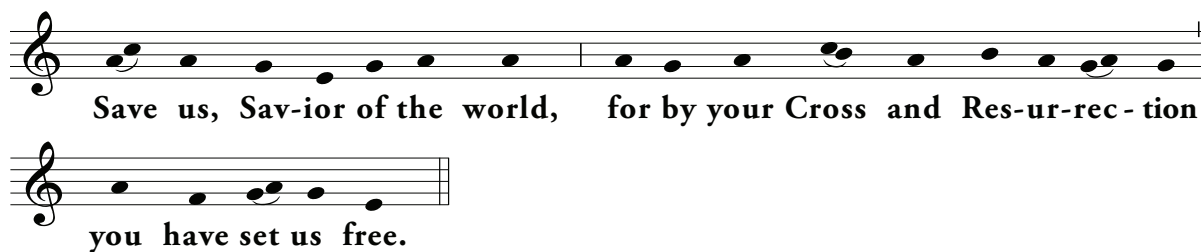
We proclaim your Death, O Lord,  
and profess your Resurrection  
until you come again.





When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup  
we proclaim your Death, O Lord,  
and profess your Resurrection  
until you come again.

Or:



Save us, Savior of the world,  
for by your Cross and Resurrection  
you have set us free.

24. Then the Priest, with hands extended, says:

**T**herefore, as we celebrate  
the memorial of his Death and, Resurrection,  
we offer you, Lord,  
the Bread of life and the Chalice of salvation  
giving thanks that you have held us worthy,  
to be in your presence and minister to you.

Celebrant with  
concelebrants

**H**umbly we pray  
that, partaking of the Body and Blood of Christ,  
we may be gathered into one by the Holy Spirit.

**R**emember, Lord, your Church,  
spread throughout the world,  
and bring her to the fullness of charity,  
together with **N.** our Pope and **N.** our Bishop\*  
and all the clergy.

Celebrant or  
one concelebrant

---

In Masses for the Dead, the following may be added:

**R**emember, Lord, your servant **N.**  
 whom you have called (today)  
 from this world to yourself.  
 Grant that he (she) who was united with your son in a  
 death like his  
 may also be one with him in his Resurrection.

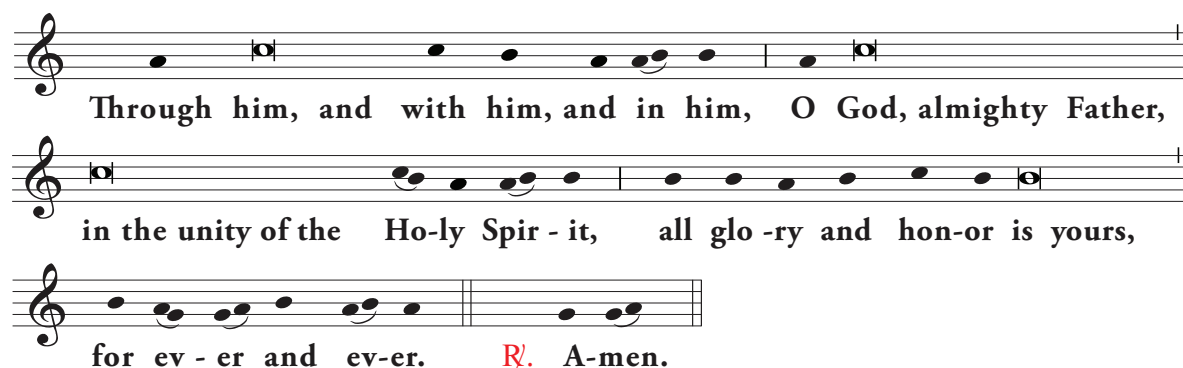
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**R**emember also our brothers and sisters  
 who have fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection,  
 and all who have died in your mercy:  
 welcome them into the light of your face.  
 Have mercy on us all, we pray,  
 that with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God,  
 with blessed Joseph, her spouse, with the blessed Apostles,  
 and all the saints who have pleased you throughout the ages,  
 we may merit to be coheirs to eternal life,  
 and may praise and glorify you

He joins his hands.

through your Son, Jesus Christ.

25. He takes the chalice and the paten with the host and, raising both, he says:



Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, almighty Father,  
 in the unity of the Ho-ly Spir - it, all glo - ry and hon-or is yours,  
 for ev - er and ev-er. **R.** A-men.

**T**hrough him, and with him, and in him,  
 O God, almighty Father,  
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
 all glory and honor is yours, for ever and ever.

The people acclaim:

Amen.

Then follows the Communion Rite.

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER III

26. **V.:** The Lord be with you.  
**R:** And with your spirit.  
**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 and just.

Then follows the Preface to be used in accord with the rubrics, which concludes:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.  
 Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
 Hosanna in the highest.  
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.,  
 Hosanna in the highest.

27. The Priest, with extended hands, says:

**Y**ou are indeed Holy, O Lord,  
 and all you have created  
 rightly gives you praise,  
 for through your Son our Lord Jesus Christ,  
 by the power and working of the Holy Spirit,  
 you give life to all things and make them holy,  
 and you never cease to gather a people to yourself,  
 so that from the rising of the sun to its setting  
 a pure sacrifice may be offered to your name.

Celebrant alone

28. He joins his hands and, holding them extended over the offerings, says:

**T**herefore, O Lord, we humbly implore you:  
 by the same Spirit graciously make holy  
 these gifts we have brought to you for consecration,

Celebrant with  
concelebrants

He joins his hands

and makes the Sign of the Cross once over the bread and chalice together, saying:

that they may become the Body and ✠ Blood  
 of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ,

He joins his hands.

at whose command we celebrate these mysteries.

29. In the formulas that follow, the words of the Lord should be pronounced clearly and distinctly, as the nature of these words requires.

**F**or on the night he was betrayed

He takes the bread

and, holding it slightly raised above the altar, continues:

he himself took bread  
and, giving you thanks, he said the blessing,  
broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying:

He bows slightly.

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT,  
FOR THIS IS MY BODY,  
WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.

He shows the consecrated host to the people, places it again on the paten, and genuflects in adoration.

30. After this, he continues:

**I**n a similar way, when supper was ended,

He takes the chalice

and, holding it slightly raised above the altar, continues:

he took the chalice,  
and, giving you thanks, he said the blessing,  
and gave the chalice to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT,  
FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD,  
THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT,  
WHICH WILL BE POURED OUT FOR YOU AND FOR MANY  
FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.  
DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.

He shows the chalice to the people, places it on the corporal, and genuflects in adoration.

31. Then he says:

Celebrant alone



The mys-ter-y of faith.

**T**he mystery of faith.

And the people continue, acclaiming:

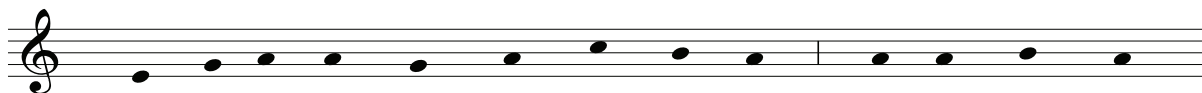


We pro-claim your Death, O Lord, and pro-fess your Res-ur-rec-tion



un-til you come a-gain.

We proclaim your Death, O Lord,  
and profess your Resurrection  
until you come again.



When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we pro-claim your



Death, O Lord, un-til you come a-gain.

Or:

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup  
we proclaim your Death, O Lord,  
and profess your Resurrection  
until you come again.

Or:



Save us, Sav-ior of the world, for by your Cross and Res-ur-rec-tion



you have set us free.

Save us, Savior of the world,  
for by your Cross and Resurrection  
you have set us free.

32. Then the Priest, with hands extended, says:

**T**herefore, O Lord, as we celebrate the memorial  
of the saving Passion of your Son,  
his wondrous Resurrection  
and Ascension into heaven  
and as we look forward to his second coming,  
we offer you in thanksgiving  
this holy and living sacrifice.

**L**ook, we pray, upon the oblation of your Church  
and, recognising the sacrificial victim by whose death  
you willed to reconcile us to yourself,  
grant that we, who are nourished  
by the Body and Blood of your Son  
and filled with his Holy Spirit,  
may become one body, one spirit in Christ.

**M**ay he make of us  
an eternal offering to you,  
so that we may obtain an inheritance with your elect,  
especially with the most Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God,  
with blessed Joseph, her Spouse,  
with your blessed apostles and glorious Martyrs  
(with Saint **N.:** the Saint of the day or Patron Saint)  
and with all the Saints,  
on whose constant intercession in your presence  
we rely for unfailing help.

**M**ay this Sacrifice of our reconciliation,  
we pray, O Lord,  
advance the peace and salvation of al the world.  
Be pleased to confirm in faith and charity  
your pilgrim Church on earth,  
with your servant **N.** our Pope and **N.** our Bishop,\*  
the Order of Bishops, all the clergy,  
and the entire people you have gained for your own.

\*Mention may be made here of the Coadjutor Bishop, or Auxiliary Bishops, as noted in the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, no. 149.

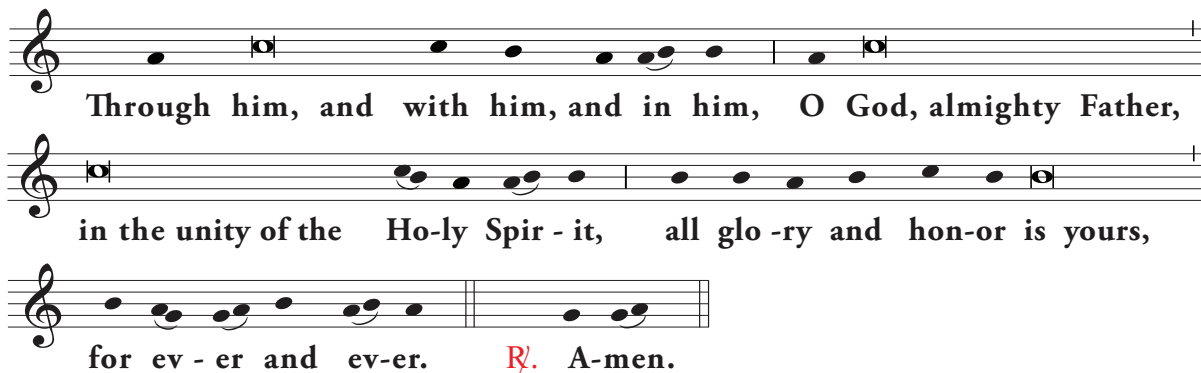
**L**isten graciously to the prayers of this family,  
 whom, you have summoned before you:  
 in your compassion, O merciful Father,  
 gather to yourself all your children  
 scattered throughout the world.

**T**o our departed brothers and sisters  
 and to all who were pleasing to you,  
 at their passing from this life,  
 give kind admittance to your kingdom.  
 There we hope to enjoy for ever the fullness of your glory

He joins his hands.

through Christ our Lord,  
 through whom you bestow on the world all that is good. †

33. He takes the chalice and the paten with the host and, raising both, he says:



Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, almighty Father,  
 in the unity of the Ho-ly Spir - it, all glo - ry and hon-or is yours,  
 for ev - er and ev-er. **R.** A-men.

**T**hrough him, and with him, and in him,  
 O God, almighty Father,  
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
 all glory and honor is yours,  
 for ever and ever.

The people acclaim:

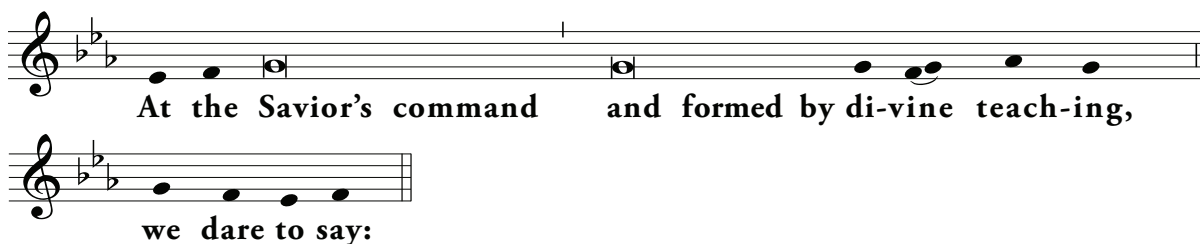
Amen.

Then follows the Communion Rite.



## THE COMMUNION RITE

34. After the chalice and paten have been set down, the Priest, with hands joined, says:



**A**t the Savior's command  
and formed by divine teaching,  
we dare to say:

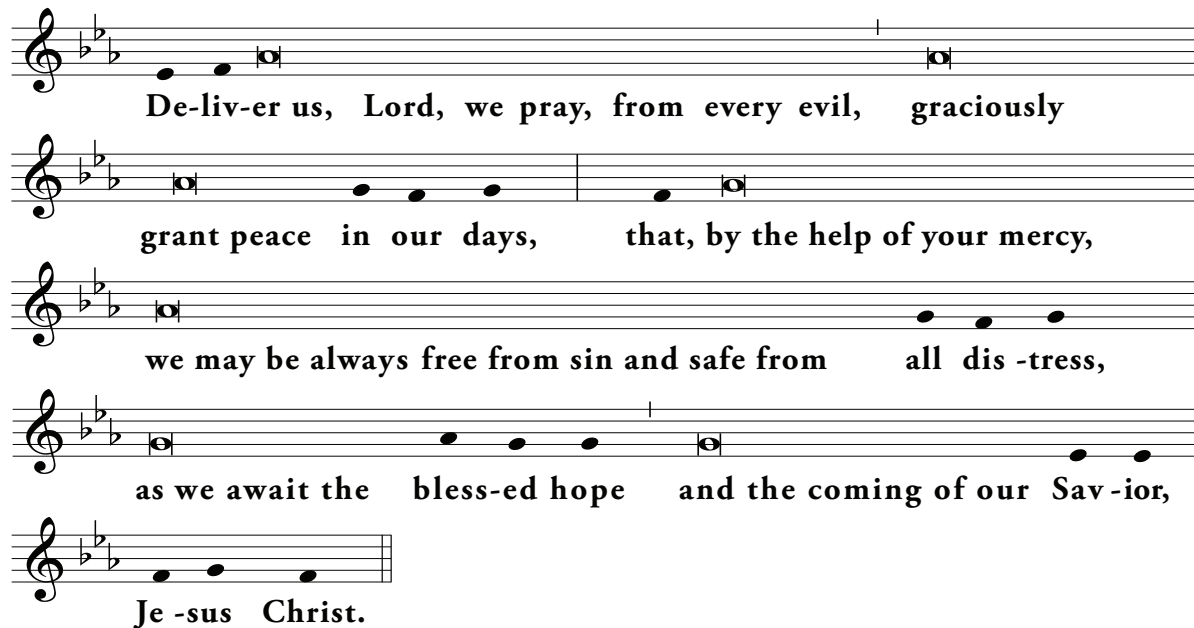
He extends his hands and, together with the people, continues:



**O**ur Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

Or:

35. With hands extended, the Priest alone continues, saying:

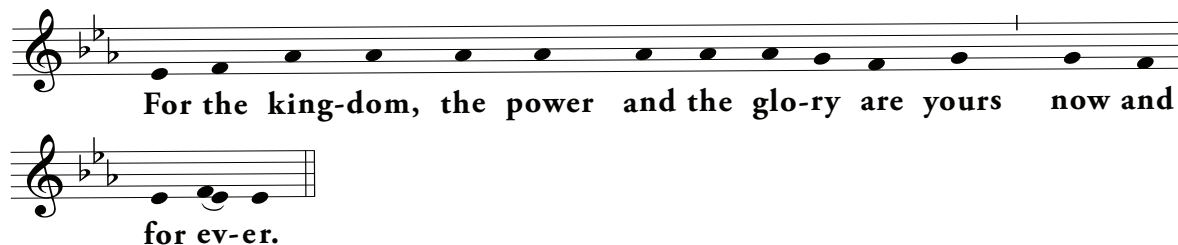


De-liv-er us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously  
grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy,  
we may be always free from sin and safe from all dis-tress,  
as we await the bless-ed hope and the coming of our Sav-ior,  
Je-sus Christ.

**D**eliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,  
graciously grant peace in our days,  
that, by the help of your mercy,  
we may be always free from sin  
and safe from all distress,  
as we await the blessed hope  
and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

He joins his hands.

The people conclude the prayer, acclaiming:



For the king-dom, the power and the glo-ry are yours now and  
for ev-er.

For the kingdom,  
the power and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.

36. Then the Priest, with hands extended, says aloud:



Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles: Peace I leave you,  
 my peace I give you, look not on our sins, but on the faith of  
 your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in ac-  
 He joins his hands.  
 -cordance with your will. Who live and reign for ev- er and ev-er.

**L**ord Jesus Christ,  
 who said to your Apostles:  
 Peace I leave you, my peace I give you;  
 look not on our sins,  
 but on the faith of your Church,  
 and graciously grant her peace and unity  
 in accordance with your will.

He joins his hands.

Who live and reign for ever and ever.

The people reply:



A -men.

Amen.

37. The Priest, turned towards the people, extending and then joining his hands, adds:



The peace of the Lord be with you al -ways.

**T**he peace of the Lord be with you always.

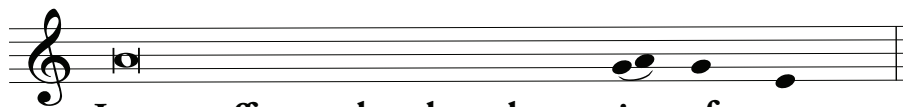
The people reply:



And with your spir-it.

And with your spirit.

38. Then, if appropriate, the Deacon or Priest adds:



Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

**L**et us offer each other the sign of peace.

And all offer one another a sign, in keeping with local customs, that expresses peace, communion, and charity. The Priest gives the sign of peace to a Deacon or minister.

39. Then he takes the host, breaks it over the paten, and places a small piece in the chalice, saying quietly:

**M**ay this mingling of the Body and Blood  
Of our Lord Jesus Christ  
bring eternal life to us who receive it.

40. Meanwhile the following is sung or said:



Lamb of God, \* you take a -way the sins of the world,



have mer -cy on us.



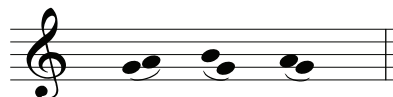
Lamb of God, \* you take a -way the sins of the world,



have mer -cy on us.



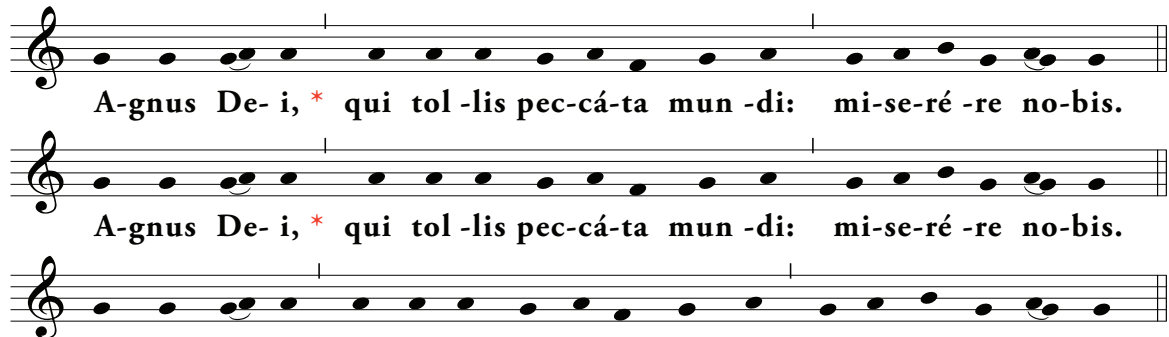
Lamb of God, \* you take a -way the sins of the world,



grant us peace.

**L**amb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
 have mercy on us.  
 Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
 have mercy on us.  
 Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

Or:



A-gnus De- i, \* qui tol -lis pec-cá-ta mun -di: mi-se-ré -re no-bis.

A-gnus De- i, \* qui tol -lis pec-cá-ta mun -di: mi-se-ré -re no-bis.

A-gnus De- i, \* qui tol -lis pec-cá-ta mun -di: do-na no-bis pa-cem.

The invocation may even be repeated several times if the fraction is prolonged. Only the final time, however, is grant us peace said.

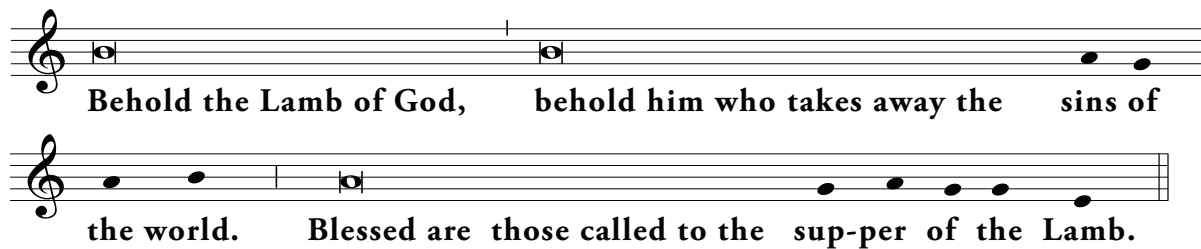
4I. Then the Priest, with hands joined, says quietly:

**L**ord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God,  
 who, by the will of the Father  
 and the work of the Holy Spirit,  
 through your Death gave life to the world,  
 free me by this, your most holy Body and Blood,  
 from all my sins and from every evil;  
 keep me always faithful to your commandments,  
 and never let me be parted from you.

Or:

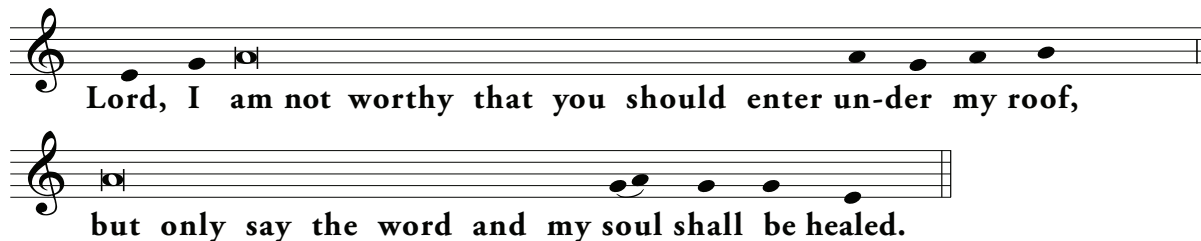
**M**ay the receiving of your Body and Blood,  
 O Lord Jesus Christ,  
 not bring me to judgment and condemnation,  
 but through your loving mercy  
 be for me protection in mind and body  
 and a healing remedy.

42. The Priest genuflects, takes the host and, holding it slightly raised above the paten or above the chalice, while facing the people, says aloud:



**B**ehold the Lamb of God,  
 behold him who takes away the sins of the world.  
 Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

And together with the people he adds once:



**L**ord, I am not worthy  
 that you should enter under my roof,  
 but only say the word  
 and my soul shall be healed.

43. The Priest, facing the altar, says quietly:

**M**ay the Body of Christ  
 keep me safe for eternal life.

And he reverently consumes the Body of Christ.

Then he takes the chalice and says quietly:

**M**ay the Blood of Christ  
 keep me safe for eternal life.

And he reverently consumes the Blood of Christ.

44. After this, he takes the paten or ciborium and approaches the communicants. The Priest raises a host slightly and shows it to each of the communicants, saying:

**T**he Body of Christ.

The communicant replies:

Amen.

And receives Holy Communion.

If a Deacon also distributes Holy Communion, he does so in the same manner.

45. If any are present who are to receive Holy Communion under both kinds, the rite described in the proper place is to be followed.
46. While the Priest is receiving the Body of Christ, the Communion Chant begins.
47. When the distribution of Communion is over, the Priest or a Deacon or an acolyte purifies the paten over the chalice and also the chalice itself. While he carries out the purification, the Priest says quietly:

**W**hat has passed our lips as food, O Lord,  
may we possess in purity of heart,  
that what has been given to us in time  
may be our healing for eternity.

48. Then the Priest may return to the chair. If appropriate, a sacred silence may be observed for a while, or a psalm or other canticle of praise or a hymn may be sung.
49. Then, standing at the altar or at the chair and facing the people, with hands joined, the Priest says:

**L**et us pray.

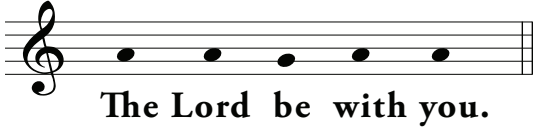
All pray in silence with the Priest for a while, unless silence has just been observed. Then the Priest, with hands extended, says the Prayer after Communion, at the end of which the people acclaim:

Amen.



## THE CONCLUDING RITES

50. If they are necessary, any brief announcements to the people follow here.
51. Then the dismissal takes place. The Priest, facing the people and extending his hands, says:



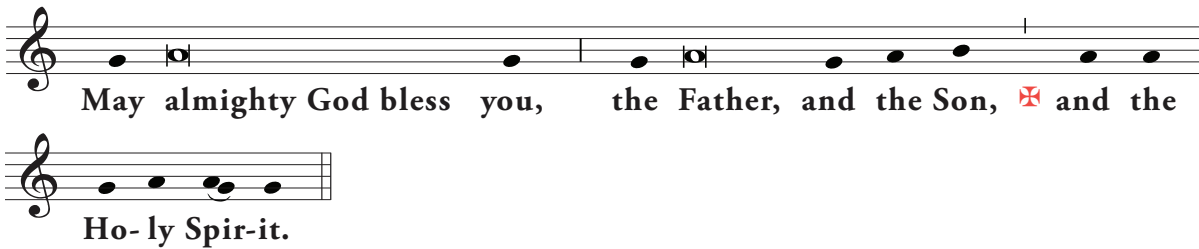
**T**he Lord be with you.

The people reply:



And with your spirit.

The Priest blesses the people, saying:



**M**ay almighty God bless you,  
the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

The people reply:



Amen.

- 
52. On certain days or occasion, this formula of blessing is preceded, in accordance with the rubrics, by another more solemn formula of blessing (cf. pp. 201ff of the Roman Missal).
-

53. In a Pontifical Mass, the celebrant receives the miter and, extending his hands, says:



The Lord be with you.

**T**he Lord be with you.

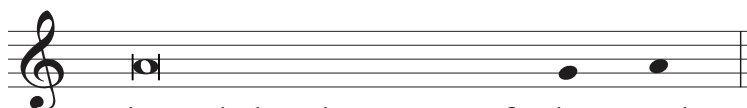
All reply:



And with your spir-it.

And with your spirit.

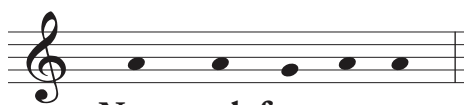
The celebrant says:



Blessed be the name of the Lord.

**B**lessed be the name of the Lord.

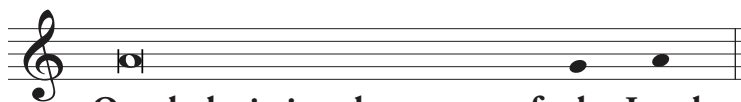
All reply:



Now and for ev-er.

Now and for ever.

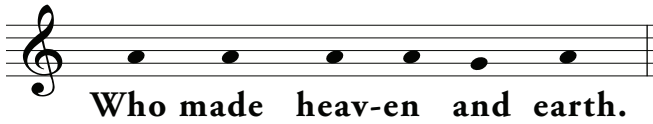
The celebrant says:



Our help is in the name of the Lord.

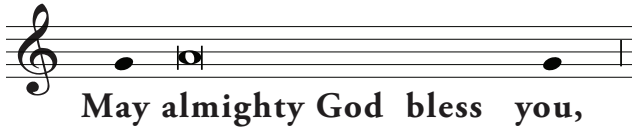
**O**ur help is in the name of the Lord.

All reply:



Who made heaven and earth.

Then the celebrant receives the pastoral staff, if he uses it, and says:



**M**ay almighty God bless you,

making the Sign of the Cross over the people three times, he adds:



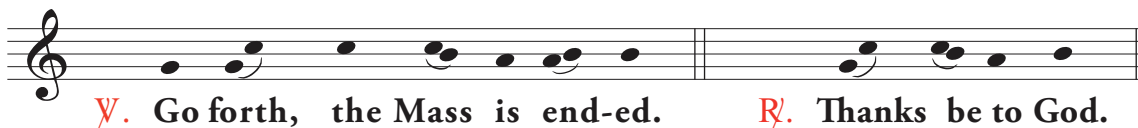
the Father, ☩ and the Son, ☩ and the Holy ☩ Spirit.

All:



Amen.

54. Then the Deacon, or the Priest himself, with hands joined and facing the people, says:



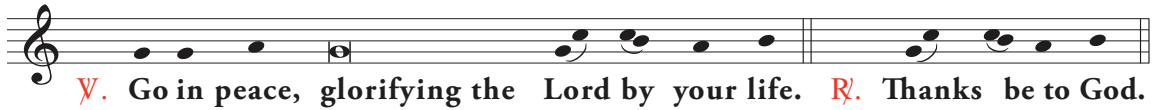
**G**o forth, the Mass is ended.

Or:



**G**o and announce the Gospel of the Lord.

Or:



**G**o in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

Or:



**G**o in peace.

The people reply:

Thanks be to God.

55. Then the Priest venerates the altar as usual with a kiss, as at the beginning. After making a profound bow with the ministers, he withdraws.
56. If any liturgical action follows immediately, the rites of dismissal are omitted.



## APPENDIX





# BLESSING FOR A LAY ASSOCIATE / AGGREGATED CO-WORKER

## I. Introduction

1. Our Constitutions and Directory foresee the possibility of some male co-workers who might wish to associate themselves more closely with the mission and life of the Congregation without actually professing vows. These “lay associate members” collaborate with professed members in the apostolic work of the Congregation and, making certain promises, can live in its religious houses, participate in its common life and share in its life of prayer. [cf. C 122; D 85, 85a]
2. It is the responsibility of provinces, vice-provinces, vicariates and houses subject immediately to the superior general, according to their own needs, to define by statute the rights and obligations of lay associates. [D 85b]
3. Although the commitment of a lay associate is of its very nature different from religious profession, it is a significant step in the life of the associate and represents a deepening of his Christian commitment. It is fitting, therefore, that as lay associates begin their service with the Congregation they receive the blessing of God who bestows the gifts to carry out their commitment.
4. In arranging for the lay associate’s rite of blessing, the greatest care should be taken to maintain its special character. All that by force of law or by ancient custom belongs to the rite of religious profession is to be avoided.
5. The major superior or his delegate presides over the rite of blessing.
6. The rite of blessing should be celebrated with great simplicity.
7. Suitably adapted, this rite of blessing can be used on significant anniversaries in the lay associate’s life (e.g., fifth anniversary).

## THE RITE OF BLESSING FOR ONE LAY ASSOCIATE

### II. Celebration

#### THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

8. When the community has gathered, a suitable song may be sung. After the singing, the celebrant says:

Celebrant:

**I**n the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All reply:

Amen.

9. The celebrant greets those present in the following or other suitable words, taken mainly from sacred Scripture.

Celebrant:

**M**ay the God of love and peace be with all of you.

All reply:

And with your spirit.

Celebrant:

**T**he needs of the Church and  
 our Congregation are many and varied  
 but God shows his goodness to us  
 by sending dedicated co-workers to meet these needs.  
 Today we ask God to bless **N.**  
 who has declared his willingness  
 to serve Christ and the Church  
 in collaboration with our Congregation of Marian Fathers.

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

10. A text from sacred Scripture is then read. As circumstances suggest, either a Psalm or suitable song follows as a response to the reading.

## HOMILY

11. At the conclusion of the readings, the celebrant gives a brief homily developing the readings and explaining the role of lay association in the fulfillment of the Congregation's mission.

## GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

12. The intercessions are then said. The celebrant introduces them and an assisting minister or one of those present announces the intentions. The following may be used or adapted, or other intentions that apply to the particular circumstances may be composed.

*Celebrant:*

Let us now ask God to strengthen and bless **N.**, as he begins his commitment with our Congregation.

*Lector:*

Let us pray together and say: *Lord, hear our prayer!*

1. That those who are engaged in apostolic service for the Church may grow in a greater love of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
2. That the Holy Spirit may strengthen the heart and enlighten the mind of **N.**, as he commits himself to our life and ministry, let us pray to the Lord.
3. That in our service to Christ and the Church we may lighten the burdens of others and assist them in their struggles, let us pray to the Lord.
4. That through his endeavors **N.** may help others grow in faith, hope and love, let us pray to the Lord.
5. That all our vowed and associate members may live and grow in the love of Christ and Mary Immaculate and the spirit of our founder and renovator, let us pray to the Lord.

13. After the intercessions the celebrant, in the following or similar words, invites all present to sing or say the Lord's Prayer.

Celebrant:

**L**et us pray to the Father in the words Jesus gave us:

All:

Our Father...

## PRAYER OF BLESSING

14. The celebrant says the prayer of blessing with hands out-stretched over the new associate member.

Celebrant:

**F**ather, look upon this community  
gathered in the name of Jesus  
and under the patronage of His Immaculate Mother.  
Bless **N.**,  
who desires to assist us in our mission  
to serve Christ and the Church.  
Strengthen his resolve  
and uphold him always with the help of your grace.  
Guide us all to be faithful to your call.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All:

Amen.

## THE CONCLUDING RITE

15. The celebrant concludes the rite by saying:

Celebrant:

**M**ay almighty God bless you in his mercy,  
and make you aware of his saving wisdom.

All:

Amen.

Celebrant:

**M**ay he strengthen your faith with proofs of his love,  
 so that you may persevere in good works.

All:

Amen.

Celebrant:

**M**ay he direct your steps to himself  
 and show you how to walk in charity and peace.

All:

Amen.

Celebrant:

**A**nd may almighty God bless you,  
 the Father, ☩ and the Son, ☩ and the Holy ☩ Spirit.

All:

Amen.

16. The celebration concludes with an appropriate hymn.



## ADMISSION TO THE CONFRATERNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION AND INVESTITURE WITH THE BLUE SCAPULAR

1. The rite of admission to the Confraternity and investiture with the Blue Scapular described below should be performed by a Marian priest or deacon (usually, the Local Confraternity Promoter) or a member of the clergy delegated by the Marians. If at all possible, it should be carried out in a communal celebration.
2. For the rite of blessing and conferral the scapular itself must be used, made of prescribed design and material: Only afterwards may a blessed scapular medal replace the scapular made out of fabric (see Appendix, Statutes of the Confraternity, p. 10).
3. In his homily, the Promoter or the person presiding over the ceremony ought to briefly explain the spiritual dimension of membership in the Confraternity. Since the Blue Scapular is a sign approved by the Church and one of its sacramentals, he should also emphasize its significance, point out the obligations ensuing from its acceptance, and mention the graces enjoyed by those who worthily wear it.

### ORDER OF ADMISSION AND INVESTITURE INTRODUCTORY RITES

4. When the people or simply the members of the confraternity have gathered, the celebrant enters during the singing of a hymn suited to the particular celebration. After the singing, the celebrant says:

**I**n the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All make the sign of the cross and reply:

Amen.

5. The celebrant greets those present in the following words:

**T**hrough the Son, born of Mary,  
Every blessing comes to us from God our Father.  
May His grace and peace be with you all.

All reply:

And with your spirit.

6. In the following words, the celebrant prepares those present for the admission and the blessing:

**T**od uses ordinary things as signs  
to express His extraordinary mercy toward us.  
Through simple things as well we express our gratitude,  
declare our willingness to serve God,  
and profess the resolve to live up to our baptismal consecration.

The Blue Scapular is the sign of entrance into  
the Marian Fathers' Confraternity  
of the Immaculate Conception of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary.  
This scapular thus expresses our intention of sharing in  
the spirituality of the Congregation of Marian Fathers.  
That intention renews our baptismal resolve to put on Christ  
with the help of Mary Immaculately Conceived,  
whose own greatest desire is that we become more like Christ  
in praise of the Trinity,  
until, dressed for the wedding feast,  
we reach our home in heaven.

### FIRST READING

7. A reader, one of those present, or the celebrant reads a text of sacred Scripture, taken either from the readings in the Lectionary for Masses in honor of Our Lady or one of the following excerpts.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

Is 61:9-11

**T**heir offspring shall be renowned among the nations,  
and their descendants in the midst of the peoples;  
All who see them shall acknowledge them:  
They are offspring the Lord has blessed.

I will rejoice heartily in the Lord,  
my being exults in my God;  
For he has clothed me with garments of salvation,  
and wrapped me in a robe of justice.  
Like a bridegroom adorned with a diadem,  
as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.



As the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and a garden makes its seeds spring up,  
so will the Lord God make justice spring up,  
and praise before all the nations.

The word of God.

All reply:

Thanks be to God.

Or:

A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians: Eph 4:17, 20-24

**S**o I declare and testify in the Lord  
that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do,  
in the futility of their minds;  
that is not how you learned Christ,  
assuming that you have heard of him  
and were taught in him, as truth is in Jesus,  
that you should put away the old self of  
your former way of life,  
corrupted through deceitful desires,  
and be renewed in the spirit of your minds,  
and put on the new self,  
created in God's way in righteousness and holiness of truth.

The word of God.

All reply:

Thanks be to God.

8. After the reading, the celebrant gives the homily.

## GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

9. The intercessions are then said. The celebrant introduces them and an assisting minister or the one of those present announces the intentions.

*Celebrant:*

**R**elying on the intercession of  
the Virgin Mary Immaculately Conceived,  
who by the power of the Holy Spirit  
gave the World our flesh,  
so that we might share in the grace of our firstborn brother  
and live for the glory of God,  
let us pray to the Father.

*Lector:*

Let us pray together and say: *Hear us, O Lord!*

1. Father, you willed to have your beloved Son take on our humanity, so that in Him we might share in Your own life; grant that we may be called and truly be Your children. For this we pray.
2. You wished Christ to be in every respect like us, but without sin, so that in following Him we might share in His filial image; grant that we may follow Christ so as to please You in all things. For this we pray.
3. You call those who are clothed in the wedding garment of the kingdom to the feast of Your grace, where You reveal Yourself to them; teach us to serve you loyally. For this we pray.
4. You clothe us with the robe of righteousness and holiness, so that through the Holy Spirit we may live for You. Show forth the holiness of Your Church and through Christ make us grow in holiness, so that we may work together generously for the salvation of others. For this we pray.
5. You continually bestow on us in Christ every spiritual blessing, until, clothed in the wedding garment, we go out to meet Christ at His coming; grant that through the prayers of Mary we may pass from death to life. For this we pray.

10. After the intercessions the celebrant, in the following or similar words, invites all present to sing or say the Lord's Prayer.

Celebrant:


**L**et us pray to the Father in the words Jesus gave us:

All:

Our Father..

## PRAYER OF BLESSING

11. With outstretched hands, the celebrant continues:

 God, the author and perfecter of all holiness,  
 You call all who are reborn of water and  
 the Holy Spirit to the fullness of the Christian life and  
 the perfection of charity.  
 Look with kindness on those  
 who will join today the Confraternity of  
 the Immaculate Conception and  
 who will devoutly receive the Blue Scapular  
 in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary Immaculately Conceived.  
 As long as they live,  
 let them become sharers in the image of Christ Your Son  
 and, after they have fulfilled their mission on earth  
 with the help of Mary, the Virgin Mother,  
 receive them into the joy of Your heavenly home.  
 We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All reply:

Amen.

## ADMISSION TO THE CONFRATERNITY

12. Those to be admitted into the Confraternity approach the altar and remain standing.

**Celebrant:**

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

**All reply:**

Who made heaven and earth.

**Celebrant:**

Lord, hear my prayer.

**All reply:**

And let my cry come to You.

**Celebrant:**

The Lord be with you.

**All reply:**

And with your spirit.

**Celebrant:**

Let us pray.



God,  
 who by the Immaculate Conception of  
 the Blessed Virgin prepared a worthy dwelling for your Son,  
 grant, we pray, that,  
 as you preserved her from every stain  
 by virtue of the Death of your Son,  
 which you foresaw, so, through her intercession,  
 we too, may be cleansed and admitted to your presence.  
 Through Our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
 who lives and reigns with you  
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
 one God for ever and ever.

All reply:

Amen.

Celebrant:

**I**n virtue of the power entrusted to me,  
 I accept you into the Marian Fathers' Confraternity of  
 the Immaculate Conception of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary.  
 By joining this Confraternity,  
 you accept the commitments that entitle you  
 to share spiritually in the life, prayers, and good works of  
 all the Marian priests and brothers,  
 both during your lifetime and after death.  
 In the name of the Father, ✠ and of the Son,  
 ✠ and of the Holy ✠ Spirit.

All reply:

Amen.

13. The celebrant sprinkles the newly admitted with holy water, upon which they kneel and recite after the celebrant the following Act of Oblation:

**M**ost Blessed Virgin Mary,  
 Mother of God and Immaculate Virgin,  
 I, (here each person mentions his/her name),  
 a poor and sinful person,  
 most unworthy to see your holy face, / wish to serve you.  
 Trusting in your great mercy,  
 in the presence of your beloved Son,  
 Lord Jesus – our Savior and Master,  
 and of all the Angels and Saints,  
 I offer myself today / into your bondage of love  
 as the most devoted child  
 in the Confraternity of your Immaculate Conception,  
 taking you as my special Mother, Lady, / and Protectress.  
 I firmly resolve / never to leave you  
 and always to defend your honor.  
 I especially promise / that I shall promote / the mystery

of your Immaculate Conception / until death.  
 Therefore, / I humbly ask you, / Most Blessed Virgin,  
 through the Blood / of your only Begotten Son Jesus Christ,  
 to mercifully receive me / among the ranks of your servants  
 as your eternal slave;  
 to help me / in all my troubles and needs;  
 and, above all, / to come to my assistance  
 at the hour of death / as the Mother of Mercy. / Amen.

### INVESTITURE WITH THE BLUE SCAPULAR

14. The newly admitted to the Confraternity remain kneeling and the celebrant continues with the prayer of the blessing of the scapular. The following formula can be used also when the ceremony of blessing and investiture with the scapular is not combined with the admission into the Confraternity.

Celebrant:

**L**ord Jesus Christ,  
 You chose to share our human nature.  
 We humbly ask You to bless this scapular  
 made in honor of the Immaculate Conception of  
 the Most Blessed Virgin Mary.  
 Grant that those who are clothed in it  
 lend themselves to moral renewal among people.  
 And may this/those, Your servant(s),  
 invested with the scapular,  
 through the intercession of  
 the Virgin Mary Immaculately Conceived  
 also deserve to be clothed in You,  
 who live and reign for ever and ever.

All reply:

Amen.

15. The celebrant sprinkles the scapular with holy water and places it over the shoulders of the recipient, saying:

**B**rother/Sister, receive this Blue Scapular,  
 from now on a sign of your belonging in  
 the Confraternity of the Immaculate Conception of  
 the Most Blessed Virgin Mary,  
 that by her help you may divest yourself of “the old man.”  
 May God grant that you may wear it  
 cleansed of every sin and free of all stain,  
 and thus pass into eternal life.

All reply:

Amen.

Celebrant:

**B**y the authority delegated to me,  
 I extend to you a share in the spiritual benefits of  
 plenary indulgences and other graces  
 bestowed upon those who are vested with and  
 worthily wear the Blue Scapular.  
 In the name of the Father, ✠ and the Son, ✠  
 and the Holy ✠ Spirit.

All reply:

Amen.

## CONCLUDING RITE

16. The celebrant, with his hands outstretched, concludes the rite with a solemn blessing. All those present bow their heads:

Celebrant:

The Lord be with you.

All reply:

And with your spirit.

**Celebrant:**

**B**ow your head(s) and pray for God's blessing.  
 May the Lord, who redeemed the world  
 through His Son born of the Virgin Mary  
 and who deigned to accept you into  
 the Confraternity of her Immaculate Conception,  
 grant you His blessing.

**All reply:**

Amen.

**Celebrant:**

**M**ay the Most Blessed Virgin Mary,  
 who gave us the Giver of Life,  
 protect you always.

**All reply:**

Amen.

**Celebrant:**

**M**ay the Lord grant health, true joy,  
 and eternal happiness to all present here today  
 to honor the Immaculate Virgin.

**All reply:**

Amen.

17. **Then he blesses all present:**

**Celebrant:**

**A**nd may almighty God bless you,  
 the Father, ☩ and the Son, ☩ and the Holy ☩ Spirit.

**All reply:**

Amen.

**Celebrant:**

**M**ay the Virgin Mary's Immaculate Conception  
 be your health and protection.

**All reply:**

Amen.

18. **It is recommended to end this celebration with a suitable song.**



## Additional explanations for the recipients of the Blue Scapular

- It is necessary to go to Communion on the day of joining the Confraternity of the Immaculate Conception of the B.V.M. and receiving the Blue Scapular. The scapular should be made out of blue cloth. The scapular should be worn so that its one part is over the chest and the other over the back.
- In 1910, St. Pope Pius X introduced a scapular medal\*, which may be substituted in most cases for any of the various cloth scapulars. However, valid enrollment in the scapulars must be made before the substitution.
- Both the cloth scapular and the medal should be worthily worn. When the Blue Scapular wears out or becomes misplaced or lost, another scapular should be put on; the replacement can be blessed by any priest or deacon.
- People wearing the Blue Scapular also share in all the spiritual benefits of the Order of the Clerics Regular – Theatines, both during their lifetime and after death.
- The names of the faithful belonging to the Confraternity of the Immaculate Conception should be recorded in the registry of the Confraternity. Some of the Marian churches at which the Confraternity exists (i.e. in Warsaw-Stegny, Poland, or in London, the United Kingdom) have such a registry. In the U.S. the Confraternity is established at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Mass. Confraternity members receive a special certificate confirming their membership.
- The death of a Brother or Sister of the Confraternity (the honorary title of a member) should be reported to the respective Marian church, so that the Congregation can include that person in their prayers for the departed.
- The pious wearing of the scapular and devotional practices—as for example, kissing the scapular or medal—carry an additional partial indulgence granted by the Church.
- There is the opportunity of accepting the Scapular of the Immaculate Conception of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary without joining the Marian Fathers' Confraternity. The faithful who wish to accept the Scapular but do not want to belong to the said Confraternity should clearly state this when asking for the Scapular. The faithful who wear the Blue Scapular but are not formally aggregated (admitted into the Confraternity of the Marian Fathers and listed in their Register) belong spiritually to the broadly understood community of the Theatine Fathers—custodians of the Blue Scapular. In addition, they share in the spiritual benefits of the Archconfraternity of the Immaculate Conception located at the Sant'Andrea della Valle Basilica in Rome, which is run by the Theatine Fathers.



