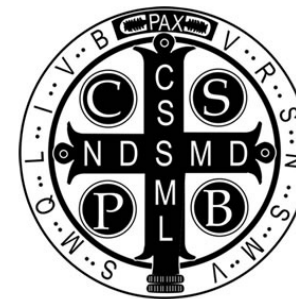


May your study of this Rule inspire you to work zealously in harmony with others where you are, for the good of humanity and the honor and glory of God. May God bless and guide you in your striving to be a faithful witness of Christ and in the spirit of Saint Benedict, through the same Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

May the blessing of almighty God, + Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever. *Amen.*

FELLOWSHIP OF ST. BENEDICT



Service of Enrollment
for a Novice

Enrollment of Novices in the Fellowship of Saint Benedict

Those who wish to become Members of the Fellowship of Saint Benedict are first enrolled for a period of six months as Novices.

The new Novice is enrolled in a ceremony held at the Offertory of a Celebration of Holy Eucharist on a Sunday morning, with the full participation and support of the parish community.

The Fellowship Director, or in his absence the Rector of the Parish or the Bishop (especially if it is one of the parish clergy), conducts the ceremony.

Service of Enrollment of a Novice in the Fellowship of Saint Benedict

Introductory Prayers

At the Offertory, the officiant calls for the candidate to stand before the Altar. Facing the candidate, the officiant says:

In the name of the + Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Questioning of Candidate

The officiant asks the candidate:

Do you wish to be enrolled as a Novice in the Fellowship of Saint Benedict?

The candidate answers: I do.

The officiant: Will you, by God's grace, be faithful in living your life in accordance with the precepts of the Rule of Saint Benedict?

The candidate answers: I will with God's help and the intercession of the saints.

The officiant: May the grace and mercy of God be with you. Let us pray.

The officiant continues with the Prayer for the Novice:

Listen to our prayers, O Lord, as we receive this Novice into union and affiliation with the Fellowship of Saint Benedict. May he (*she*) be strengthened with unfailing firmness so that, persevering in his (*her*) holy resolution, he (*she*) may serve you in all holiness.

O God, you once called our blessed Father Benedict to serve you in seclusion from the turmoil of sin and evil in the world. We beg you to grant strength and perseverance to this your servant who is eager to serve you, not apart from, but in the world where he (*she*) lives and works, having promised to follow the teachings of Saint Benedict as his (*her*) guide. This we ask, through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The officiant gives a copy of the Rule of Saint Benedict to the new Novice, saying:

Accept this Holy Rule of Saint Benedict which was written in the spirit of the Gospel teachings of Christ and handed down to us through the centuries. Let it be a special guide for you in your life as a Christian and Member of the Fellowship of Saint Benedict. May the principles herein contained show you the true Way of Christ as taught us in the Gospels: to love God and love our neighbor.

May you therefore be more and more concerned about the needs of others, ready to give generously of yourself to the building up of true Christian fellowship with those around you: the strong and the weak, the wise and the unwise, the healthy and the sick, the rich and the poor, the joyous and those afflicted with misery and sorrow, the lovable and the unlovable, the secure and the insecure, those well cared for and those who are neglected, the young and the aged, those born and the preborn, those placed over you and those who are under your care, those of your faith and those not of your faith, whether in affairs of Church, business, government, or any other area of life.