

FELLOWSHIP OF ST. BENEDICT



Act of Profession to the Fellowship of Saint Benedict

Six months after enrollment as a Novice, the candidate may make Profession as a Member of the Fellowship of Saint Benedict upon mutual agreement with his or her Rector and the Fellowship Director. This act of Profession will make the Novice a full Member of the Fellowship of Saint Benedict for life, or for as long as he or she desires to remain affiliated.

The form of Profession is prepared beforehand. The ceremony takes place at a service of Holy Eucharist in the Member's parish church. The Fellowship Director, or the Novice's Rector or Bishop, conducts the ceremony according to the Rule of St. Benedict (ch. 58).

Service of Profession

Invocation of the Holy Spirit

At the Offertory, the candidate comes before the officiant, standing before the Altar, carrying the form of Profession. The officiant begins:
In the Name of + the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and kindle in us the fire of your love.

V. Send forth your Spirit and we shall be created.

R. And you will renew the face of the earth.

Let us pray

O God, you have filled the hearts of your faithful with the light of your Holy Spirit; grant us by the same Spirit to know what is right, and always to rejoice in His consolation. Raise up, O Lord, in your Church, the Spirit which animated our holy Father Benedict, so that, filled with that same Spirit, we may strive to love what he loved, and to practice what he taught. This we ask, through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Questioning and Admonition

The officiant asks the candidate:

Do you wish to make your Profession as a Member of the Fellowship of Saint Benedict?

The candidate answers: I do.

The officiant responds:

May the grace and mercy of God be with you. As a Novice you have had time to study the Rule of Saint Benedict and the Benedictine way of life, according to which you wish to govern and enrich your life as a Christian in accord with your state in life. By now you should know, from this experience as an Novice, under what conditions you are about to make your Profession. If you are still ready and willing to be guided by the teachings of our holy Father Benedict, in so far as your state in life permits, and are resolved to remain faithful and persevere in your holy resolution, you may now make your Profession.

The Promises

After a pause, the officiant questions the candidate.

N.N., do you dedicate yourself to the service of God and humanity and promise stability, fidelity, and obedience to the Rule of Saint Benedict?

R. I do.

Will you strive to be faithful and persevere in your holy resolution for the rest of your life?

R. With the help of God's grace, I will.

The officiant then says:

Thanks be to God. Since God has given you this good will and you trust in His help, you may now read your Act of Profession.

Act of Profession

The candidate reads his Profession aloud. When finished making his or her Profession, the Member goes to the altar or table and signs his full name on the Act of Profession form in front of the witnesses of his or her parish. The signed Act of Profession is then placed on the Altar and remains there through the celebration of Holy Mysteries in the Eucharist.

After placing the document on the Altar the Professed says:

Uphold me, Lord, according to Your promise, that I may live; and let me not be put to shame in my hope. *(Psalm 119:116)*

Congregation: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Formal Acceptance of New Member

The formal acceptance of the new Member is announced by the officiant:
As God's representative, I now accept your Profession and admit you into spiritual union and affiliation with the Fellowship of Saint Benedict as a full Member and adopted son (*daughter*) of our holy Father Benedict, and give you the privilege of sharing in the prayers and good works of this Fellowship.

May God strengthen you in your faith. May you persevere in your holy resolution to serve God and humanity in accord with the spirit of the Rule of Saint Benedict, as your state in life permits. And may God reward you, according to His promises, with the vision of His glory for all eternity. *Amen.*

Bestowal of Medal of Saint Benedict

If the medal of Saint Benedict has not been blessed beforehand, it is blessed as follows.

V. Our help is in the name of the Lord.

R. Who made heaven and earth.

Let us pray

Almighty God, the boundless source of all good things, we humbly ask that, through the intercession of Saint Benedict, you pour out your blessing + upon this medal. May the one who wears it earnestly strive to perform good works, be blessed by you with health of soul and body, the grace of a holy life, and through sincere confession, the remission of sin. May he (*she*) also, with the help of your merciful love, strive to exercise true charity and justice toward all, so that one day he (*she*) may enjoy eternal light in Your heavenly Kingdom. This we ask, through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Concluding Prayers and Blessings

The officiant prays:

Let us pray

O God, you blessed your holy confessor Benedict with the spirit of all the just. Grant that this newly accepted Member of the Fellowship of Saint Benedict may be filled with the same spirit and, with the help of your grace, may faithfully carry out what he (*she*) has promised. This we ask, through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

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

Amen.