

Appendix E (See The Rule, Section II. 14, Particular Directory, Section III. B. 4-6.)
The Rite of Profession

INTRODUCTION

The rite of profession most properly takes place during the Eucharistic Liturgy, or, if that is impossible, during Morning or Evening Prayer. The ceremony follows the Gospel.

The rite should be simple so that all superfluous elements are avoided. The ceremony should be performed in the presence of one's Chapter of the Dominican Laity and invited guests.

When they are present, the President of the Provincial Council and the Provincial Promoter should be invited to participate.

Before the ceremony begins, a member of the Chapter—for example, the Moderator / Prior / Prioress or Formation Director—may give a short admonition on the meaning of the event. It is appropriate that this introductory text be composed especially for the ceremony. The following may be used as a model.²⁷

Today we welcome (*number*) member(s) of our Chapter who will make profession to The Rule of the Dominican Laity. This profession will bind them more closely to the Dominican Family and to the service of justice and truth. As the Lord called our holy Father Saint Dominic and our sister Saint Catherine of Siena, so, too, are we called to participate more fully in the life of the Church. We pray that what is done here today may be for the glory of God and the salvation of souls.

After the scripture reading and before the homily, the Moderator / Prior / Prioress, the Formation Director and the Religious Assistant stand before the altar with the Moderator / Prior / Prioress in the center. The Formation Director calls forward those who are to make promises.

THE CALLING

Formation Director:

Will those seeking to be professed in the Dominican Laity please come forward?

Each Candidate / Novice, wearing the scapular, when called by name, stands, gives assent and comes forward.

Candidate / Novice:

Present.

²⁷ In this and similar instances, the text should be adapted to the number of Candidates / Novices being

REQUEST FOR ADMISSION

When all the Candidates / Novices have come forward, the Moderator / Prior / Prioress continues:

Moderator / Prior / Prioress:

What do you seek of God and His Church?

Candidates / Novices:

God's mercy and yours.

- or -

We ask for God's merciful love, and for the grace of serving God more perfectly as lay Dominicans.

- or -

We ask to be admitted to profession according to The Rule of the Dominican Laity and the Particular Directory of the Western Province. During the time of our initial formation, we have been strengthened in the conviction that the Lord is calling us to observe the Gospel by following in the footsteps of Saint Dominic.

All sit and listen to the homily.

Afterwards, the Candidates / Novices come forward again to be questioned about their readiness and intentions.

DECLARATION AND PROFESSION

Moderator / Prior / Prioress:

In the presence of your Dominican brothers and sisters, and of the People of God gathered here, I ask you to state your intentions. Do you wish to observe The Rule of the Dominican Laity as well as the customs and guidelines of our Province Directory?

Candidates / Novices:

I do, with the help of God.

Moderator / Prior / Prioress:

You have been called to give witness to the Reign of God and help build a world of peace and justice based on the Gospels. Do you wish to be faithful to this vocation and to practice the Beatitudes through the example of Saint Dominic?

Candidates / Novices:

I do, with the help of God.

Moderator / Prior / Prioress:

You were made members of the People of God in Baptism, and strengthened in Confirmation by the gift of the Holy Spirit. Do you wish to be bound more closely to the Church so you may strive more intently to preach the Word, according to your state in life, both when convenient and inconvenient?

Candidates / Novices:

I do, with the help of God.

Religious Assistant:

This Chapter, part of our worldwide Dominican Family, duly authorized by the Master of the Order of Friars Preachers, welcomes you with great joy. May the Lord bring to perfection the good work begun in you!

Each Candidate / Novice in turn kneels before the Moderator / Prior / Prioress. Placing his/her right hand on The Rule, each recites the formula of profession:

To the honor of Almighty God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and of the Blessed Virgin Mary and of Saint Dominic, I (name), before you (name), the Moderator / Prior / Prioress of this Chapter and (name), the religious promoter, representing the Master of the Order of Friars Preachers, promise to live according to The Rule of the Dominican Laity for [insert the appropriate period of time] (three years or my whole life).

The Religious Assistant continues:

PRAYER

Religious Assistant:

Lord our God, Your grace has led these, your servants, to live their faith more fully in this world by coming to profess the Gospel according to the life and Rule of the Dominican Laity. By the power of your Holy Spirit, may they give witness to the life and teachings of your Son to all the world. Grant that they may be continually united to Christ through the gifts of their lives, so that your word may be proclaimed to the very ends of the earth. We ask this through Christ our Lord. (All: Amen.)

OPTIONAL BLESSING OF CROSS OR MEDAL

As an option, the Religious Assistant may bless a Dominican cross or a Dominican medal to be worn by the newly professed.

Religious Assistant:

Heavenly Father, You sent your Son to us because You love us and want to save us. By the Power of His cross, the sign of glory, free us from sin and let us live each day for you. Bless + this cross (medal), and let it remind us that Jesus died and rose for all. Help us to carry our cross with Him every day, and to follow Him in serving others. We ask this through Christ our Lord. (All: Amen.)

Each newly professed kneels or stands before the Moderator / Prior / Prioress who places the cross around his/her neck or gives each a medal. The deacon, or in his absence the celebrant, invites all to exchange a sign of peace. The Mass continues.

In a service of the word, the final blessing and dismissal are given, or if the Liturgy of the Hours is being celebrated, it resumes with the Gospel Canticle.