

V

THANKSGIVING FOR THE 25TH OR 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF RELIGIOUS PROFESSION

INTRODUCTION

227. On the occasion of his 25th or 50th anniversary of religious profession, it is appropriate that a friar celebrate the anniversary with his community during a Eucharistic celebration, as a thanksgiving prayer to the Lord for the gift of vocation, a moment of prayer for himself and the Order, and a moment of reflection on the values of religious life and its role in the life of the Church.

228. Unless the friar has expressed otherwise, it is appropriate that the celebration be announced to the community of the Province and to the faithful of the place in which the friar is working.

229. On solemnities, the Sundays of Advent, Lent, Eastertide and on special days, the mass of the day is said; on other days, the appropriate ritual mass is to be used («For the 25th Anniversary of Religious Profession» or «For the 50th Anniversary of Religious Profession»).

230. If the friar celebrating the anniversary is a priest, he himself presides at the celebration of the Eucharist. In other cases, the Prior provincial or conventual Prior presides.

231. There should be prepared for the celebration:

- the Easter candle;
- the Book of Gospels;
- a candle on the altar or in front of the image of the Blessed Virgin.

THANKSGIVING

232. The celebration of the Eucharist takes place as usual. In order to underline the relationship between the Baptismal covenant and religious profession, it is appropriate to use the memorial of Baptism with holy water at the beginning of the celebration, instead of the penitential rite, as proposed in the *Roman Missal*.

233. After the homily, the Assembly remains in silence for a moment. The friar who is celebrating his anniversary of religious profession then takes his place before an image of the Blessed Virgin and greets her with the angelic greeting:

Hail, Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among women
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.

234. Then the friar goes to the altar or another appropriate place and offers a prayer of thanksgiving using these or similar words:

Blessed are you, holy Father,
because in the fountain of Baptism
– fruitful womb of the Virgin Church –
you made me your son,

you consecrated me to your service,
 you called me to be a member
 of your royal, priestly and prophetic people.

Praise be to you, most high God,
 for you looked upon me
 and, through the voice of the Holy Spirit,
 you called me to follow your Son,
 patient Servant and glorious Lord.

Glory be to you, merciful God,
 for you granted me the grace of experiencing
 the Evangelical life of the Seven First Fathers,
 men of peace and harmony,
 humble, penitent and poor,
 servants devoted to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Thanks be to you, Father of all goodness,
 for the twenty-five (fifty) years (spent) in the Order:
 for the brothers and sisters that you gave me,
 for the moments of happiness and the moments of sadness in community life,
 for the prayerful silence and the unanimous praise,
 for the Word and the Bread broken together,
 for the apostolic work,
 supported in a common search for the Kingdom.

The Assembly joins the prayer of thanksgiving by saying:
 To you, Lord, be glory and praise for ever.

235. The friar continues:

Have mercy on me, Lord,
 and show me your mercy;
 grant me your grace,
 so that I may be faithful to the commitment assumed on
(the day of the first religious profession is said)
 to follow Christ until death
 in poverty, chastity and obedience,
 observing the Rule of Saint Augustine
 and the Constitutions of the Servants of Mary.

Holy Mary,
 Virgin of the Annunciation and at the foot of the Cross,
 Queen of Mercy and our glorious Lady,
 sustain my commitment
 and accompany me on the way of life.

All present:
 Amen.

236. Then he kisses the Book of Gospels and lights a candle on the altar or in front of the icon of the Virgin Mary, while the choir sings the following antiphon or another appropriate one:

May Jesus Christ, the Light of the world,
keep lighted my lamp
until the sunrise of the (final) meeting day.

237. *The celebration continues with the Prayer of the Faithful.*

238. *At the end of the celebration, following to the tradition of the Order, the Blessed Virgin is honoured with the singing of the *Salve Regina* or the *Supplication of the Servants* or another Marian antiphon.*

APPENDIX

I

LATIN TEXTS OF THE FORMULA OF PROFESSION

FORMULA OF TEMPORARY PROFESSION^[26]

239. **I.** Ego frater **N.**,
qui in hac communitate **N.**
iam ... degui annos,
vobiscum fraterne vivens
et Evangelii studens testis esse,
instanter vos rogo
ut mihi in vestro concedatis perseverare consortio.

II. Ideo firma ac libera voluntate
coram te, fratre **N.** Maria, Priore generali,
(vel nomine et vice Prioris generalis)
voveo Patri,
in obsequium beatæ Virginis Mariæ, Dominæ nostræ,
me Christum secuturum
evangelica servantem consilia
castitatis, paupertatis, obœdientiæ,
secundum Regulam sancti Augustini
et Servorum Constitutiones
usque ad ...

III. Sancti Spiritus gratia,
Dominæ nostræ intercessio,
caritas vestra, fratres,
hæc vota professionemque meam corroborent.
Amen.

FORMULA OF SOLEMN PROFESSION^[27]

240. **I.** Ego frater **N.** Maria,
divino verbo atque Spiritus Sancti gratia impulsus,

promitto Deo Patri
 me Christi eiusque Evangelii testem futurum
 et munus sacrati amoris
 erga Deum cunctosque homines expleturum,
 assidue spectantem Mariam, Domini ancillam et matrem.

II. Ideo coram hac fraternitate **N.**,
 totius Ordinis et universalis Ecclesiae signo,
 et coram te, fratre **N.** Maria, Priore generali,
 (*vel* nomine et vice Prioris generalis)
 libera scientique voluntate voveo
 me usque ad mortem Christum secuturum
 in castitate, paupertate, obœdientia,
 (*vel:* in cœlibatu propter Regnum cœlorum,
 in paupertate et obœdientia).

Itaque promitto me vitam vobiscum fraterne acturum
 in oratione communi,
 in lectione divina,
 in fractione Panis,
 studia, opera, bona vobiscum communicantem,
 secundum Regulam sancti Augustini
 et Servorum Constitutiones,
 ut Domino, beatæ Mariæ cunctisque hominibus deserviens,
 præceptum amoris adimpleam
 et perfectam attingam caritatem.

III. Misericordis Dei gratia,
 Dominae nostræ intercessio
 fratrumque caritas
 sustineant meam fragilitatem
 et quod despondi confirmet.

Vel:

Opem fer, Domine, servo tuo,
 qui Evangelii verbo fesus,
 fidem dedit tibi.

II

LECTIONARY FOR RELIGIOUS PROFESSION

In this Lectionary, the readings which appear in the Ordo Lectionum Missæ. VIII. In consecratione virginum et professione religiosa have been reproduced, except those selected exclusively for women.

*There are also other readings, whose choice has been suggested by verses quoted in some documents of the Magisterium of the Church or of our tradition, like the document of the Council Vatican II *Perfectæ caritatis*, the *Legenda de origine Ordinis*, the *Rule of Saint Augustine* and the *Constitutions of the Order*.*

A. READINGS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

- 241.** *Gn 12: 1-4a*
Leave your country, your family and your father's house, for the land I will show you.
The Lord said to Abram...
- 242.** *Gn 12: 1-4a*
Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.
The boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord...
- 243.** *1 Kgs 19: 4-9a, 11-15a*
Stand on the mountain before the Lord God.
Elijah went himself into the desert... (v.9) into a cave.
Then he was told... (v.15) to the desert of Damascus.
- 244.** *1 Kgs 19: 16b, 19-21*
Elisha rose and followed Elijah.
On Mount Horeb, the Lord said to the prophet Elijah: 'You must anoint Elisha son of Shaphat as prophet to succeed you'. Leaving Mount Horeb, Elijah...
- 245.** *Sg 8: 6-7*
Love is strong as Death.
Set me like a seal...
- 246.** *Is 61: 9-11*
I exult for joy in the Lord.
Their race will be famous throughout the nations...
- 247.** *Jr 1: 1, 4-10*
Before I formed you in the womb I knew you.
The words of Jeremiah son of Hilkiyah, of a priestly family living at Anathoth in the territory of Benjamin. The word of the Lord was addressed to me, saying...
- 248.** *Jr 31: 31-34*
A new covenant.
See, the days are coming...

B. RESPONSORIAL PSALMS

- 249.** *Ps 16 (15): 5-6, 7-8, 9-10, 11*
R. (v.2) Lord, you are my God: my happiness lies in you alone.
- 250.** *Ps 24 (23): 1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6*
R. (v.6) Such are the ones who seek your face, O Lord.
- 251.** *Ps 27 (26): 1, 4, 5, 8b-9abc, 9d & 11*
R. (v.8) It is your face, O Lord, that I seek.
- 252.** *Ps 33 (32): 2-3, 4-5, 11-12, 13-14, 18-19, 20-21*
R. (v.12) Happy are the people the Lord has chosen as his own.
or:
R. (v.21) In you, O Lord, my heart find joy.
- 253.** *Ps 34 (33): 2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9*
R. (v.2) I will bless the Lord at all times.
- 254.** *Ps 34 (33): 10-11, 12-13, 14-15, 17 & 19*
R. (v.9) Taste and see that the Lord is good.
- 255.** *Ps 40 (39): 2 & 4ab, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 12*
R. (v.8c-9a) Here am I, Lord! I come to do your will.

- 256.** *Ps* 45 (44): 11-12, 14-15, 16-17
R. My happiness lies in the Lord alone.
- 257.** *Ps* 62 (61): 2-3, 8-9, 11, 12
R. (v.6) In God alone be at rest, my soul.
- 258.** *Ps* 63 (62): 2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9
R. (v.2) For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord, my God.
- 259.** *Ps* 65 (64): 5, 7-8, 11, 12-13, 14
R. (v.10) You care for the earth, O Lord, you fill it with riches.
- 260.** *Ps* 71 (70): 5-6, 16-17, 20-21
R. (v.2) It is you, O Lord, who are my hope.
- 261.** *Ps* 84 (83): 3, 4, 5 & 8a, 11, 12
R. (v.5) Happy are those who dwell in your house.
 or:
R. (*Rev* 19: 9) Happy are those who are invited
 to the wedding feast of the Lamb.
- 262.** *Ps* 91 (90): 1-2, 11-14, 15-16b
R. You save me, Lord, and you give me life.
- 263.** *Ps* 92 (91): 2-4, 5-6, 13-14
R. (v.5) Your deeds, O Lord, have made me glad.
- 264.** *Ps* 98 (97): 1, 2-3a, 3b-4
R. (v.1) Sing a new song to the Lord for he has worked wonders.
- 265.** *Ps* 100 (99): 2, 3, 4, 5
R. (v.4 & 5) Give thanks to the Lord; eternal is his merciful love.
 or:
R. (v.2) Come before the Lord, singing for joy.
- 266.** *Ps* 103 (102): 1-2, 8, 10, 11-12, 13, 18
R. Show us, Lord, the light of your face.
 or:
R. I will bless the Lord's name for ever.
- 267.** *Ps* 112 (111): 1, 6, 7-8, 9
R. (v.1) Happy are those who fear the Lord.
- 268.** *Ps* 119 (118): 9-10, 11-12, 13-14, 15-16
R. (v.14) I rejoiced to do your will, O Lord.
- 269.** *Ps* 133 (132): 1, 2, 3
R. In your presence, O God, we will love each other.
- 270.** *Ps* 138 (137): 1-2a, 2b-3, 5-6, 8
R. (v.1) I thank you, Lord, with all my heart.
- 271.** *Ps* 139 (138): 1b-3a, 3b-5, 23-24
R. (v.24) Lead me, O Lord, in the path of life eternal.
- 272.** *Ps* 145 (144): 1-2, 3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9
R. (v.3) You are great, Lord, highly to be praised.
 or:
R. (v.20) Lord, you protect all who love you.

C. READINGS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

273. *Ac 2: 42-47*
The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common.
 The whole community remained faithful...
274. *Ac 4: 32-35*
United, heart and soul
 The whole group of believers...
275. *Rm 6: 3-11*
We too might live a new live.
 Brothers and sisters, when we were baptised in Christ Jesus...
276. *Rm 8: 9-11, 14-17*
Unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him.
 Brothers and sisters, your interests are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual...
277. *Rm 8: 18-24a, 26-27*
We too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.
 Brothers and sisters, I think that what we suffer in this life...
278. *Rm 8: 28-30, 35, 37-39*
By turning everything to their good God cooperates with all those who love him.
 Brothers and sisters, we know that by turning everything to their good God cooperates with all those who love him...
279. *Rm 12: 1-13*
Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, dedicated and acceptable to God.
 I urge you, brothers and sisters, remembering the mercies of God...
280. *1 Co 1: 22-31*
Here are we preaching a crucified Christ; to the Jews an obstacle that they cannot get over, to the pagans madness.
 Brothers and sisters, while the Jews demand miracles...
281. *Ga 5: 13-14, 16-18, 22-25*
Since the Spirit is our life, let us be directed by the Spirit.
 Brothers and sisters, you were called to be free...
282. *Ep 1: 3-14*
God chose us, chose us in Christ, to be holy and spotless, and to live through love in his presence.
 Blessed be God the Father...
283. *Ep 3: 14-21*
Planted in love and built on love.
 Brothers and sisters, this is what I pray, kneeling before the Father...
284. *Ep 4: 1-6*
Lead a life worthy of your vocation.
 Brothers and sisters, I, the prisoner in the Lord, implore you...
285. *Ep 4: 11-13, 15-16*
Until we become the perfect human being.
 To some, the gift of Christ was that they should be apostles...
286. *Ph 2: 1-4*
Be united in your convictions and united in your love.
 Brothers and sisters, if our life in Christ means anything to you...
287. *Ph 3: 8-14*

I have accepted the loss of all other things, and look on them all as filth if only I can gain Christ.

Brothers and sisters, because of the supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, I count everything else as loss....

- 288.** *Col 3: 1-4*
Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth.
 Brothers and sisters, since you have been brought back to true life with Christ...
- 289.** *Col 3: 12-17*
Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love.
 Brothers and sisters, you are God's chosen race...
- 290.** *1 Thes 4: 1-3, 7-12*
What God wants is for you all to be holy.
 Brothers and sisters, we urge you...
- 291.** *1 Tm 6: 6-12*
Fight the good fight of faith.
 Religion, of course, does bring large profits...
- 292.** *1 Pet 1: 3-9*
You did not see Jesus Christ, yet you love him.
 Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ...
- 293.** *1 Pet 1: 13-22*
Be holy in all you do.
 My dear people, free your minds, then, of encumbrances...
- 294.** *2 Pet 1: 2-11*
Never allow your choice or calling to waver.
 My dear people, may you have more and more grace and peace...
- 295.** *1 Jn 3: 16-24*
We, too, ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters.
 My dear people, this has taught us love - that he gave up...
- 296.** *1 Jn 4: 7-16*
As long as we love one another God will live in us.
 My dear people, let us love one another...
- 297.** *Rev 3: 14b, 20-22*
If one of you hears me calling and opens the door, I will come in to share a meal at that person's side.
 Here is the message of the Amen, the trustworthy, the true witness, the Principle of God's creation: Look, I am standing...
- 298.** *Rev 22: 12-14, 16-17, 20*
Come, Lord Jesus!
 I, John, am the one who heard a voice saying: 'Look, I am coming soon...'

D. GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

- 299.** *Ps 116 (115): 16a*
 Your servant, Lord, your servant am I
 and your servant was my mother.
- 300.** *Ps 133 (132): 1*
 How good and how pleasant it is,
 people dwelling in unity!
- 301.** Cf. *Mt 11: 25*

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,
for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom to mere children.

- 302.** Cf. *Mt* 19: 21
If you wish to be perfect,
go and sell your possessions and give the money to the poor,
and you will have treasure in heaven.
- 303.** Cf. *Mt* 25: 1, 6
Keep lighting the lamp of faith
and brighten up the flame of love:
Look! The bridegroom is coming!
- 304.** Cf. *Mk* 10: 28-30
Since you have left everything
for my sake and for the sake of the Gospel
you will receive a hundred times as much now in this present time
and, in the world to come, eternal life.
- 305.** Cf. *Lk* 11: 27-28
The seed is the word of God, Christ the sower;
whoever finds this seed will remain for ever.
- 306.** *Lk* 11: 28
Happy are those who hear the word of God and keep it!
- 307.** *Lk* 16: 10a
Anyone who is trustworthy in little things
is trustworthy in great, says the Lord.
- 308.** *Jn* 2: 5
The Mother said to the Servants:
«Do whatever he tells you».
- 309.** Cf. *Jn* 2: 1, 11
At the wedding at Cana, Jesus transformed water into wine;
he revealed his glory and his disciples believed in him.
- 310.** *Jn* 8: 12
I am the light of the world, says the Lord,
anyone who follows me will have the light of life.
- 311.** *Jn* 13: 34b-35
Love one another just as I have loved you.
It is by your love for one another,
that everyone will recognise you as my disciples.
- 312.** *Jn* 14: 23
If anyone loves me he will keep my word,
and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him.
- 313.** *Jn* 15: 5
I am the vine, you are the branches.
Whoever remains in me, with me in him,
bears fruit in plenty, says the Lord.
- 314.** Cf. *2 Co* 8: 9
Jesus Christ was rich, but he became poor for your sake,
to make you rich out of his poverty.
- 315.** *Ga* 2: 20
I have been crucified with Christ and yet I am alive.;

yet it is no longer I, but Christ living in me.

- 316.** *Ga 6: 14*
The only thing I can boast about
is the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,
through whom the world is crucified to me, and I to the world.
- 317.** *Ph 3: 8-9*
I have accepted the loss of everything
and I look on everything as so much rubbish
if only I can have Christ and be given a place in him.
- 318.** *Cf. 2 Th 2: 14*
Through the Good News God called us
to share the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

E. GOSPELS

- 319.** *Mt 5: 1-12a*
Happy are you... Rejoice and be glad.
Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up...
- 320.** *Mt 5: 13-16*
Your light must shine in people's sight.
Jesus said to his disciples: ...
- 321.** *Mt 6: 19-21, 25-34*
Set your hearts on his kingdom first, and on his righteousness.
Jesus said to his disciples:...
- 322.** *Mt 11: 25-30*
You have hidden these things from the learned and revealed them to mere children.
Jesus exclaimed, ...
- 323.** *Mt 13: 44-46*
He goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.
Jesus said to the crowds: ...
- 324.** *Mt 16: 24-27*
Anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it.
Jesus said to his disciples, ...
- 325.** *Mt 19: 16-26*
If you wish to be perfect, sell what you own and follow me.
There was a man who came to Jesus...
- 326.** *Mk 3: 31-35*
Anyone who does the will of God, that person is my brother and sister and mother.
The mother and brothers of Jesus arrived...
- 327.** *Mk 10: 24b-30*
We have left everything and followed you.
Jesus said to his disciples, 'My children, ...
- 328.** *Lk 1: 26-38*
I am the handmaid of the Lord.
The angel Gabriel was sent...
- 329.** *Lk 1: 39-56*
He looked on his servant in her lowliness.

Mary set out and went...

- 330.** *Lk 9: 57-62*
Once the hand is laid on the plough, no one who looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.
 As Jesus and his disciples travelled along...
- 331.** *Lk 10: 38-42*
Martha welcomed Jesus into her house. It is Mary who has chosen the better part.
 Jesus came to a village, ...
- 332.** *Lk 11: 27-28*
Happy the womb that bore you! Still happier those who hear the word of God.
 As Jesus was speaking, a woman in the crowd raised her voice...
- 333.** *Lk 22: 24-27*
Yet here am I among you as one who serves.
 A dispute arose between the apostles...
- 334.** *Jn 1: 35-43*
'Come and see' he replied.
 As John stood there with two of his disciples, ...
- 335.** *Jn 2: 1-12*
The mother of Jesus was there.
 There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee...
- 336.** *Jn 12: 24-26*
If a grain of wheat dies it yields a rich harvest.
 Jesus said to his disciples: 'I tell you, most solemnly, ...
- 337.** *Jn 13: 1-5, 12-17*
I have given you an example so that you may copy what I have done to you.
 It was before the festival of the Passover, and Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to pass from this world to the Father...
- 338.** *Jn 15: 1-8*
Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty.
 Jesus said to his disciples: 'I am the true vine...
- 339.** *Jn 15: 9-17*
You are my friends, if you do what I command you.
 Jesus said to his disciples: 'As the Father has loved me, ...
- 340.** *Jn 17: 20-26*
I want those you have given me to be with me.
 Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said: 'Holy Father, I pray not only for these, ...