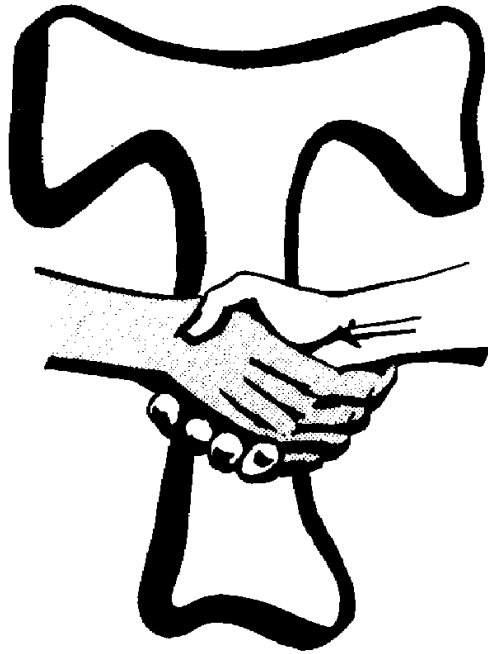


RITUAL OF THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER



Part I: Rites for Entering the Secular Franciscan Order

Preface

3. The Rites that Accompany the Steps of SFO Life

- 3.03** Through the spiritual assistant and the president (minister), who represents the fraternity, the Church accepts the commitment and the profession of those who profess the rule and life of the Secular Franciscan Order. By her public prayer, the Church entreats the help and grace of God for them. She imparts her blessing over them, and accompanies their commitment or profession with the **Eucharistic** Sacrifice.
- 3.31** Since by its very nature profession [or permanent commitment] is a public and ecclesial act, it should be celebrated in the presence of the whole fraternity, “a visible sign of the Church, the community of love.” It is fitting that the profession be made during the celebration of the **Eucharist** . . .
- 4.33** The gradual movement toward permanent commitment in the Secular Franciscan Order is expressed and realized not only by the actual rite but also through the appropriate liturgical context within which that rite is celebrated. Since the **Eucharist** is the high point and peak experience of Christ’s sacrificial self-giving and our communion with the Lord, it is expected that this context be reserved for one’s permanent commitment to the gospel life in profession, and that the other rites occur during a celebration of the Word of God or the Liturgy of the Hours.

Part I – Rites for Entering the Secular Franciscan Order
Chapter Three – Rite of Profession or Permanent Commitment
to the Gospel Life Within the Mass (pages 18 – 19)

All that is necessary for celebrating the Eucharist and for the rite of profession is to be adequately prepared beforehand.

Before the celebrant is about to begin, one of the members of the fraternity may give a short admonition on the meaning of the event. It is appropriate that the text be especially composed for the occasion; the following thoughts may be used as a model:

We are assembled as a community
to take part in the **Eucharistic** Sacrifice.
In this celebration of the **Eucharist**
N.N. are (is) going to make their (his/her) profession
of the gospel life in the Secular Franciscan Order.
In doing so, they (he/she) make(s) present again and renew(s)
the promise of their (his/her) Baptism and
commitment of their (his/her) Confirmation.

While giving thanks to the Father through Christ
for all the gifts we have received from him,
we have a special reason for gratitude today:
the gift of his grace which he has given
to those (the one) about to be professed
to live in the world according to the spirit of the Beatitudes,
and also the gift of his grace
which he has given to the whole community
by adding (a) new member(s) to the fraternity.

The permanent commitment to the gospel life
publicly proclaimed today during this celebration
reminds us of something which is also made present
every day in the **Eucharist**: After the example of Christ
and in union with his own act of thanksgiving,
we are to present ourselves before the Father
as living sacrifices of praise given for the life of the world.



Part II – Prayers for Fraternity Meetings
Preface (page 34)

The following gatherings of the fraternity are required by statutes:

- a. a time for getting to know one another as brothers and sisters,
- b. a time for hearing the Word of God and sharing it,
- c. a time for study and work, especially ongoing formation and the apostolate,
- d. a time for the liturgical celebration of the **Eucharist** and the Liturgy of the Hours.

[Designed by Deacon Dave and Thérèse Ream, O.F.S., Revised July 2017.]