

THE CONFRATERNITY OF CHRISTIAN MOTHERS

Solemn Reception Ceremony

The Director, or some other duly authorized priest, vested in surplice and white stole, kneeling on the lowest altar step, says:

Ant. Veni, Sancte Spiritus, reple tuorum corda fidelium, et tui amoris in eis ignem accende.

V. Emitte Spiritum tuum, et creabuntur.

R. Et renovabis faciem terrae.

V. Memento congregationis tuae.

R. Quam possedisti ab initio.

V. Domine, exaudi orationem meam.

R. Et clamor meus ad te veniat.

V. Dominus vobiscum.

R. Et cum spiritu tuo.

Oremus. Respice, quaesumus, Domine, super hanc familiam tuam, in nomine beatissimae Mariae Virginis ac Matris Dolorosae congregatam, de cujus gremio hae famulae tuae esse cupiunt, et augeatur numerus tibi fideliter servientium ut ab omnibus saeculi et carnis perturbationibus liberatae et a laqueis diaboli securae, intercessione ejusdem Beatissimae Mariae Virginis vera gaudia possideant. Qui vivis et regnas in saecula saeculorum. *R.* Amen.

Ant. Come, Holy Ghost, fill the hearts of Thy faithful, and kindle in them the fire of Thy love.

V. Send forth Thy Spirit and they shall be created.

R. And Thou shalt renew the face of the earth.

V. Be mindful of Thy congregation.

R. Which Thou hast possessed from the beginning.

V. O Lord, hear my prayer.

R. And let my cry come unto Thee.

V. The Lord be with you.

R. And with thy spirit.

Let us pray. Look down, we beseech Thee, O Lord, upon this Thy family, assembled here in the name of Mary, the Most Blessed Virgin and Sorrowful Mother, whose intimate associates these handmaids wish to be; and let the number of Thy faithful servants be increased, that through the intercession of the same Most Blessed Virgin Mary they may be freed from all temptations of the world and the flesh, and be safe from the snares of Satan, and possess true joy. Who livest and reignest forever and ever. *R.* Amen

Now the priest ascends to the altar platform on the Epistle side to bless the medals of the Sorrowful Mother and to attach to them the indulgences pertinent to the Archconfraternity of Christian Mothers. If he has the faculty, he may also attach the Apostolic indulgences to them.

V. Adjutorium nostrum in nomine Domini.

R. Qui fecit coelum et terram.

V. Dominus vobiscum.

R. Et cum spiritu tuo.

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

R. Who made heaven and earth.

V. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

Oremus. Omnipotens sempiterne Deus, qui sanctorum tuorum imagines sculpi non reprobas, ut quoties illas, oculis corporis intuemur, toties eorum actus et sanctitatem ad imitandum memoriae oculis meditemur: haec, quaesumus, numismata in honorem et memoriam beatissimae Virginis Mariae, Matris Domini nostri, adaptata benedicere et sanctificare digneris, et praesta, ut quicumque coram illis beatissimam et immaculatam Virginem suppliciter colere et honorare studuerit, illius meritis et obtentu a te gratiam in praesenti et aeternam gloriam obtineat in futurum. Per Christum Dominum nostrum.

R. Amen.

Let us pray. Almighty, everlasting God, who are not displeased that we should make images of Thy Saints, so that we may contemplate their saintly lives with the eyes of our minds as often as we look upon these images with the eyes of our body; deign, we beseech Thee, to bless and sanctify these medals, fashioned in honor and memory of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of Our Lord; grant, too, that whoever venerates and honors the Most Blessed and Immaculate Virgin in the presence of these medals may by her merits and prayer obtain from Thee grace in this life and eternal glory in the next.

Through Christ Our Lord. R. Amen.

The priest then sprinkles the medals with holy water. At his discretion, especially if a larger group is to be received, he may say the Litany of the Blessed Mother in the vernacular and give a short exhortation. Immediately after this, or if the Litany and exhortation are omitted, after the sprinkling, he proceeds with the distribution of the medals. For this it is fitting that the mothers hold lighted candles. Before giving the medal to each individually the priest might have her kiss it and say an aspiration such as, "Mary, please help me to be a better mother."

For One:

Accipe, soror, numisma Beatae Mariae
Virginis, signum famulatus ejus. Ex
nunc memor esto te esse ancillam
Dominae Nostrae, Matris Dolorosae,
eique placitis moribus studeatis
deservire.

Receive, dear Sister, the medal of the
Blessed Virgin Mary, as the pledge of
thy service to her. From this day
forward be mindful that thou art a
handmaid of Our Lady, the Sorrowful
Mother, and strive to serve her with
virtues pleasing to her.

If there are a number to be received, the priest may distribute all the medals and then say in the plural:

Accipite, sorores, numismata Beatae
Mariae Virginis, signa famulatus ejus.
Ex nunc memores estote vos esse
ancillas Dominae Nostrae, Matris
Dolorosae, eique placitis moribus
studeatis deservire.

Receive, dear Sisters, the medal of the
Blessed Virgin Mary, as the pledge of
your service to her. From this day
forward be mindful that you are
handmaids of Our Lady, the Sorrowful
Mother, and strive to serve her with
virtues pleasing to her.

He then asks them the following questions.

My dear Mothers in Christ: With joy and gratitude to God I see you here assembled, publicly and solemnly to be received into the Confraternity of Christian Mothers. Answer, therefore, with a sincere and devout heart the following questions:

Priest. Do you consecrate yourselves and your children from the bottom of your hearts to the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of Sorrows? *Mothers.* We do.

Priest. Will you honor and love her as your Mother, and instill the same affection into the hearts of your children? *Mothers.* We will.

Priest. Will you be truly Christian Mothers and try to make your children faithful members of the Catholic Church and followers of Jesus Christ? Will you pray for them and make every sacrifice God may demand of you for the salvation of their souls?

Mothers. We will.

Priest. Recite, then, with me devoutly this consecration to Mary.

Most Holy Virgin, conceived without sin, Mother of Sorrows! To show my love and veneration toward thee, I consecrate and devote myself to thee as thy perpetual servant. I resolve henceforth to be thy true child and to fulfill towards thee all the duties of a child: reverence, love, and obedience. Take me, therefore, O my Mother, under thy maternal shelter and care. By thy intercession and merits aid and protect me in all my necessities, and give me always to know and accomplish with all my heart what is pleasing to thee and what thou dost wish me to do. Especially teach me how to educate my children according to thy will. Let them and all the children of the other members of our Confraternity be recommended to thy sorrowful heart. Be to them a loving Mother, full of grace and tenderness. Have pity, likewise, on all my family! Help us in every need, save us from every evil of soul and body, and obtain for all of us a happy death. Amen.

This is followed by the reception prayer itself.

Beatissima et Immaculata Virgo Maria ac Mater Dolorosa vos recipiat in numerum famularum suarum, et ego auctoritate mihi concessa vos recipio, aggrego, et adscribo Sodalitati Matrum Christianarum in hac ecclesia institutae, ut eandem sanctissimam Dei Genetricem Doloribus sauciam unanimes voce laudantes et invocantes, piissimae intercessionis ejus subsidia in vita et in hora mortis nostrae sentiamus; pariterque participes vos reddo omnium gratiarum et bonorum spiritualium hujus Sodalitatis. In nomine Patris, et Filii et Spiritus Sancti. Amen.

May the Most Blessed and Immaculate Virgin Mary and Sorrowful Mother receive you into the company of her handmaids, and I, by the power granted to me, do hereby receive, affiliate, and enroll you in the Confraternity of Christian Mothers erected in this church, that while we in unison praise and invoke the same most holy and Sorrowful Mother of God, we may through her most kind intercession experience help in life and in the hour of our death. By the same power, I hereby grant you a share in all the graces and spiritual benefits of this Confraternity. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.