

The Rites
of the
Brotherhood
of Saint Gregory

Golden Jubilee Edition 2019

Concerning the Rites

The Minister General is normally officiant; he may appoint another member of the community to officiate, except in the case of the Commissioning of Officials. The Minister General may be vested in cope, and accompanied by his chaplain bearing the crozier.

It is preferred that the rites take place in the presence of the assembled community, during the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, or at an office. Life and First Profession, and the Institution of a Minister General must take place within the context of the Holy Eucharist. The Holy Eucharist may begin with the Penitential Order, the rites being performed prior to the Peace. The other rites may take place during an office, prior to the Salutation and Lord's Prayer. The Gathering Service may be used as a preface to Evening Prayer, and the Mission Service may be used at the conclusion of a liturgy as a form of dismissal. Renewal of Vows is normally performed privately.

In rites involving a presentation or examination, that portion of the rite may take place prior to the Liturgy of the Word.

Before the liturgy, the instruments of life and first profession are preset on a table in the sight of the assembly, the other items on the altar, as needed:

- Life Profession: the ring (on a suitable tray or paten), the instrument of life profession
- First Profession: the knotted cincture, the scapular, the profession cross, the instrument of profession
- Reception into novitiate: the tunic, the unknotted cincture
- Admission to postulancy: the postulant/novice cross, the Book of Common Prayer

Water for aspersion, and a thurible and incense are to be at hand if needed. For those rites which require the signing of an instrument, two pens are to be at hand. A chair is placed in the sanctuary gate, or another convenient place, at the beginning of the rites.

The community may enter in procession, or be in place before the liturgy begins. Any to make first profession are in habit without cincture or cross. Any to be received into the novitiate are in street dress.

The Litany is used at the Prayers of the People. During the Litany, through the concluding collect, those to be professed lie prostrate in a place visible to the assembly; candidates for life vows are covered with a white pall. It is fitting that the bearers of the pall be life professed.

When possible the sponsors or presenters for the rites should include: at life profession the Ministers Provincial, at first profession the Minister Provincial of the candidate and Director of Postulants and Novices, at reception into novitiate the Director of Postulants and Novices and the Mentor of the candidate, and at admission to postulancy the Directors of Vocations and of Postulants and Novices.

The Rites of Membership

As the rites begin, the Minister General takes his place in the chair provided, accompanied by the chaplain and the MC. He may address the assembly with the following charge.

To be a brother is to become a witness to the love of God in your every living moment; to live humbly, with patience and in service; to meet Christ your brother in every man, woman, and child, no matter who they be; and to greet that Christ with the open arms of love. To be a brother is also to live a life of joy and celebration, exemplified in the Daily Office and in the Holy Eucharist. It is, in fact, to live in such a way that life itself would have no reason if it were not for the presence of Christ's redeeming love.

Life Profession

The presenters, flanking the candidate for life profession, come forward and stand facing the Minister General. If there are two or more candidates, they respond in unison.

Presenters We present *N.* to make life profession of vows in the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory.

Minister General *Is the person* you present ready and able to take up this responsibility?

Presenters *He has* fulfilled the requirements of annual profession; been faithful to the Rule; and we certify that a majority of Council and of the life professed think *him* ready to make this commitment of *his life* to God.

Minister General You have come now to make your life profession of vows in the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory. Be mindful of the solemnity of this moment, and of the life-long responsibility you accept today. What is your desire, my *son*?

Candidate It is my desire fully to embrace the Rule of the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory for the balance of my life, in service to the church as Christ and my brothers guide me.

Minister General Do you believe with your whole heart that God is calling you to make this solemn, life-long dedication of yourself?

Candidate I do.

Minister General Will you remain for ever faithful in prayer, in attendance at the Holy Eucharist, and in the reading and study of the Holy Scriptures?

Candidate I will, for God's Word is my trust, and my food is the bread of heaven.

Minister General Will you look for and serve Christ at all times, and in all of God's creation?

Candidate I will.

Minister General Will you pattern your entire life in accordance with the teachings of Christ, so that you may be a wholesome example to all people?

Candidate I will, God being my helper.

Each Candidate kneels individually, placing his hands between those of the Minister General, saying

I, *N.*, brought to this day by the grace of God and none other, do here in the presence of God, of you, and of these my brothers, profess to follow Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior, as revealed in the Holy Scriptures and by the Holy Spirit, through the doctrines, disciplines, traditions and creeds of the church.

I do hereby vow to follow, for the remainder of my natural life, the Rule of the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory:

I make the vow of poverty, in dedicating of the fruit of my labor to the church and the Brotherhood, knowing that it is only through Christ, who inspires both the will and the deed, that I am able to do any good at all.

I make the vow of chastity, in dedicating myself, my soul and mind and body, to the pure service of the love of God, that I may love others without trying to possess or control.

I make the vow of obedience to Christ, to the discipline of the Episcopal Church, to the Rule of the Brotherhood, and to [you] the Minister General and other pastoral officials appointed over me in this life, that I may lay aside self-will, and do only as God wills.

May I be modest and humble, strong and constant to serve under the discipline of Christ.

I make these vows of my own desire, and here give my life over into God's hands, that through the grace of Jesus Christ I may be, with our beloved patron Gregory, a servant of the servants of God; in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Minister General Will you who now witness these vows do all in your power to strengthen and support this your brother?

Assembly We will.

Minister General We accept your life profession of vows to the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. May the Lord's grace uphold you, and strengthen you in service.

The newly life professed brother goes to the table prepared, and signs the instrument of life profession in the sight of the assembly. The Minister General then goes to the altar, places a hand upon the ring, and says

May *this ring* be blessed in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, as a symbol of God's all-encompassing love, and as a constant reminder of the vows made final this day. *Amen.*

The thurible is presented to the Minister General, who lays on incense. He sprinkles the ring with water, and censes it. All then return to their places. The newly life professed brother kneels before the Minister General, who receives the ring and places it upon the third finger of the brother's right hand, saying

Receive this ring as the symbol of your life profession of vows. God grant you many years of service to the church. Be ever mindful of the promises you have made.

The newly life professed brother says

O God, who has given me grace to wear this ring as a symbol of my life profession, give me the strength to persevere in my vocation, all the days of my life.

The Minister General takes the aspergillum, and sprinkles the brother, saying

May God confirm you in your vocation, this day and always.

The newly life professed brother stands and is presented to the assembly by the Minister General.

Minister General Greet our newly life professed *brother.*

Assembly The Lord bless you and keep you, all the days of your life; God preserve you and guide you, as you fulfill your vows day by day.

Applause is appropriate.

The brother returns to his place in choir. If this is the only or final rite performed, the Minister General concludes as described below. The Holy Eucharist continues with the Peace. If another rite is to follow, the Minister General returns to his seat.

Renewal of Annual Vows

This liturgy may be performed privately. The candidate's Minister Provincial or another professed brother serves as witness. The candidate comes forward and stands before the Minister General, who says

You come now to renew your vows of profession in the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory for a term of one year. Be certain that you have in mind the solemnity of these promises and the responsibilities of your profession.

The candidate kneels before the Minister General, and says

I, brought to this day by the grace of God and none other, do here in the presence of God, of you, and of *these my brothers*, renew and reaffirm the promises I have made.

I do hereby vow to follow, for the period of one year, the Rule of the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory:

I renew the vow of poverty, in dedicating of the fruit of my labor to the church and the Brotherhood.

I renew the vow of chastity, dedicating myself to the pure service of the love of God, that I may love others without trying to possess or control.

I renew the vow of obedience to Christ, to the discipline of the Episcopal Church, to the Rule of the Brotherhood, and to [you] the Minister General and other pastoral officials appointed over me.

I renew these vows of my own desire, that I may continue as a servant of the servants of God; in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Minister General We accept the renewal of your vows of profession in the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory for the period of one year, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. May the Lord's grace uphold you, and strengthen you in service.

If this is the last rite performed, or if renewal is performed privately, the Minister General concludes as described below.

Blessing of Habits

The Minister General, the MC and the thurifer go to the altar. Facing the assembly, the Minister General begins

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

R. The maker of heaven and earth.

V. The Lord be with you.

R. And also with you.

Let us pray.

The Minister General faces the altar, and lays a hand upon any articles to be used in the following liturgies, saying

O Lord God, may *this Prayer Book* be blessed in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, to enlighten the heart with wisdom, and to instruct in your commandments, day by day. *Amen.*

May *this cross* be blessed in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, as a symbol of the saving death of Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

May *this tunic* be blessed in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, that our *brother* may be clothed in humility and know the joy in obedience that is given to every child of God. *Amen.*

May *this cincture* be blessed in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, that our *brother* may be bound with the strong Name of God against all evil and impurity. *Amen.*

May *this scapular* be blessed in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, that our *brother* may always be kept in the life of dedicated service, and that all may be done to the glory of God alone. *Amen.*

The thurible is presented to the Minister General, who lays on incense. He sprinkles the articles on the altar with water, then, taking the thurible, censens them. He then returns to his chair, accompanied by the MC. The thurifer also accompanies him, unless the only rite to follow is Admission, for which incense is not needed.

First Profession of Annual Vows

The candidate comes forward, flanked by his sponsors, and stands before the Minister General. If there are two or more candidates, they respond in unison.

Sponsors We present *this novice* to make first profession of vows in the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory.

Minister General Take heed that the *person* you present be ready and able for the life of a professed brother, and prepared to take up this grave commitment.

Sponsors We have duly inquired and examined, and certify that a majority of Council and of the professed brothers of *his province* think *him* so to be.

Minister General You come now to make your first profession of vows. Be mindful of the solemnity of this moment and the responsibilities which you are about to take upon yourself. What is your desire, my *son*?

Candidate It is my desire to make my first vows of profession in the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory.

Minister General Do you believe with your whole heart that God is calling you to the religious life of this community?

Candidate I do.

Minister General Will you be faithful in prayer, in attendance at the Holy Eucharist, and in the reading and study of the Holy Scriptures?

Candidate I will, for God's Word is my trust, and my food is the bread of heaven.

Minister General Will you look for and serve Christ in all of creation?

Candidate I will.

Minister General Will you pattern your life in accordance with the teachings of Christ, so that you may be a wholesome example to all people?

Candidate I will, God being my helper.

Each candidate kneels individually before the Minister General. He places his folded hands between those of the Minister General, and says

I, N., brought to this day by the grace of God and none other, do here in the presence of God, of you, and of these my brothers, profess to follow Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior, as revealed in the Holy Scriptures and by the Holy Spirit, through the doctrines, disciplines, traditions and creeds of the church.

I do hereby vow to follow, for the period of one year, the Rule of the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory:

I make the vow of poverty, in dedicating of the fruit of my labor to the church and the Brotherhood, knowing that it is only through Christ, who inspires both the will and the deed, that I am able to do any good at all.

I make the vow of chastity, in dedicating myself, my soul and mind and body, to the pure service of the love of God, that I may love others without trying to possess or control.

I make the vow of obedience to Christ, to the discipline of the Episcopal Church, to the Rule of the Brotherhood, and to [you] the Minister General and other pastoral officials appointed over me, that I may lay aside self-will, and do only as God wills.

May I be modest and humble, strong and constant to serve under the discipline of Christ.

I make these vows of my own desire, and here give myself over into God's hands, that through the grace of Jesus Christ I may become, with our beloved patron Gregory, a servant of the servants of God; in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Minister General Will you who now witness these vows do all in your power to strengthen and support this your brother?

Assembly We will.

Minister General We accept your first profession of annual vows to the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. May the Lord's grace uphold you, and strengthen you in service.

The newly professed brother goes to the table prepared and signs the instrument of profession in the sight of the assembly. The brother returns to stand before the Minister General. The MC presents habit parts to the sponsors, who help in clothing the brother.

As the cincture is presented, the Minister General says

May you be girded about with strength, and upheld to do God's will in the world.

As the scapular is presented, the Minister General says

May God direct the work of your hands this day and always.

Prior to presenting the cross, the Minister General says

Receive the cross of the Brotherhood, that in all things you may glory in the cross of Christ alone.

The Minister General presents the cross to the newly professed brother, who kisses it and says

O God, who has given me grace to wear the cross of the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory, give me grace to be worthy of the vocation to which I am called.

The newly professed brother kneels before the Minister General, who sprinkles him with water, saying

Soli Deo Gloria — To God alone the glory.

The Minister General takes the thurible and censes the newly professed brother, saying

Servus servorum Dei — A servant of the servants of God.

The Minister General returns the thurible. Unless the rite of Admission is to be performed, the thurifer may depart until the Offertory.

The newly professed brother stands and is presented to the assembly by the Minister General.

Minister General Greet our newly professed *brother*.

Assembly Glorify the Lord, O you servants of the Lord;
let all that you do be done to God's glory.

Applause is appropriate.

The brother returns to his place. If this is the only or final rite performed, the Minister General concludes as described below. The Holy Eucharist continues with the Peace. If another rite is to follow, the Minister General returns to his seat.

The Reception of a Novice

The candidate comes forward with his sponsors flanking him, to stand before the Minister General. If there are two or more candidates, they respond in unison.

Sponsors We present *this postulant* to be received into the novitiate of the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory.

Minister General Take heed that the *person* you present be able and prepared for the life of a novice.

Sponsors We have inquired and examined, and certify that a majority of Council think *him* so to be.

Minister General What is your desire, my *son*?

Candidate It is my desire to become a novice in the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory.

Minister General Come forward.

The novice-prospective steps forward and kneels before the Minister General, who says

Do you believe that God is calling you to the life of a novice?

Candidate I do.

Minister General Will you promise to obey those who are appointed over you?

Candidate God being my helper, I do so promise.

Minister General Will you who witness this promise do all in your power to help this person in the fulfillment of the commitment he has made?

Assembly We will.

The candidate places his clasped hands into the left hand of the Minister General, who raises his right hand and says

N.N. (full secular name), we receive you as a novice in the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. You shall hereafter be known as N. (name in community).

The new novice stands, and the MC presents each habit part to the sponsors, who help in the clothing. As the tunic is presented, the Minister General says

The Lord clothe you with grace, that you may walk steadfastly in righteousness.

As the cincture is presented, the Minister General says

May you be girded about with strength and upheld to do God's work in the world.

The new novice kneels, as the Minister General stands and is presented the thurible. He censens the new novice, saying

Soli Deo Gloria — To God alone the glory.

The Minister General returns the thurible to the thurifer. The new novice stands and is presented to the assembly by the Minister General.

Minister General Greet our new *novice*.

Assembly Walk in love as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, in obedience to God's will.

Applause is appropriate.

The novice returns to his place. If this is the only rite to be performed, the Minister General leads the closing as described below. Then the Holy Eucharist continues with the Peace, or the office with the Salutation and Lord's Prayer. If admission is to follow, the Minister General returns to his seat.

The Admission of a Postulant

The aspirant comes forward, his sponsors flanking him, and they stand before the Minister General. If there are two or more aspirants, they respond in unison.

Sponsors We present *this person* to be admitted to the postulancy of the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory.

Minister General Take heed that the *person* you present be able and prepared for the life of a postulant.

Sponsors We have inquired concerning *him* and certify that a majority of Council think *him* so to be.

Minister General What is your desire, my *son*?

Aspirant It is my desire to become a postulant in the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory.

Minister General Step forward.

Each aspirant comes forward and kneels individually before the Minister General, placing his clasped hands into the left hand of the Minister General, who raises his right hand and says

Minister General N.N. (full secular name), we admit you as a postulant in the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

The new postulant stands, and the MC presents the following articles to the sponsors, who present them to the new postulant. As the cross is presented, the Minister General says

Receive this cross, that in all things you may be mindful of Christ.

As the Prayer Book is presented, the Minister General says

Receive the Book of Common Prayer, the foundation of the community of prayer that is born anew each day.

The new postulant kneels before the Minister General, who sprinkles him with water, saying

Soli Deo Gloria — To God alone the glory.

The new postulant stands and is presented to the assembly by the Minister General.

Minister General Greet our new *postulant*.

Assembly Grow in wisdom; study God's will; examine your heart; and run with courage the race that is before you.

Applause is appropriate.

The postulant takes his place in choir, and the liturgy concludes as follows. Then the Holy Eucharist continues with the Peace, or the office with the Salutation and Lord's Prayer.

The Conclusion of the Rites

This Conclusion is used at the end of the rites, before the Peace at the Holy Eucharist, or the Salutation and Lord's Prayer at the office. It is also used at the end of any rite performed apart from a liturgical celebration.

The Minister General, standing, may take his crozier in his left hand. He raises his right hand, saying

Almighty God, you have revealed your greatness and glory; for there is no god in heaven or on earth who can do such works as you have done: Fill us, we beseech you, with the grace of your Holy Spirit, that we may do the work you have given us to do, to the praise and glory of your Name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A suitable hymn may be sung before the Peace, or Salutation and Lord's Prayer.

Additional Directions

If the Holy Eucharist is votive, the Community Collect may serve as the Collect of the Day, and proper readings selected from the following, or other appropriate texts, may be used.

Old Testament

I Samuel 3:1-10 (Vocation)
Song of Songs 8:6-7 (Love and fortitude)
Jeremiah 1:4-10 (Vocation)
Jeremiah 17:7-8 (Trust in God)

Psalms

27:1-9 (Trust in God)
34:1-8 (Trust in God)
63:1-8 (Seeking the Lord)
84:1-7 (Service)
122 (Brotherhood and community)
133 & 134 (Brotherhood and service)
139:1-7 (Vocation)

Epistle

Romans 12:1-12 (Humility and dedication)
1 Corinthians 12:4-14 (Gifts of the Spirit)
1 Corinthians 13:1-13 (Love and humility)
2 Corinthians 6:1-10 (Poverty, obedience and fortitude)
Ephesians 4:1-6,11-13,16 (Humility, brotherhood, spiritual gifts)
1 Peter 4:7-11 (The end is at hand, love and serve one another)

Gospel

Matthew 6:25-33 (Trust in God)
Matthew 9:35-38 (Vocation)
Mark 10:35-45 (Humility and service)
Luke 9:57-62 (Poverty, obedience and fortitude)
John 13:3-5, 12-17 (Humility and service)

Pastoral Rites

Commissioning of Officials

The new official comes forward and stands facing the Minister General. If there are two or more persons to be commissioned, they respond in unison. The Minister General says

In consideration of your faithful obedience to the Rule of the Brotherhood, and your care and concern for this community, and in accordance with its governing documents, you have been duly chosen to exercise the position of _____, to serve and assist in all such ways as are required of you by the Rule, Constitution, and Customary of this community. Are you prepared to take up this responsibility?

Brother I am, with God to strengthen me.

Minister General Will you care for and nurture all who serve under your guidance?

Brother I will, for so God nurtures me.

Each brother kneels individually before the Minister General, and places his folded hands between those of the Minister General, who says

My brother, we are bound together in love and service. May you be obedient, careful, and ready always to serve the servants of God, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

The new official stands. When all have been commissioned, they are presented to the assembly by the Minister General.

Minister General Greet our new _____.

Assembly Bear this yoke of responsibility, upheld by our prayers and our love.

Applause is appropriate. Those newly commissioned return to their seats. If desired, the Conclusion from the rites of membership may be used at this time.

The Institution of a Minister General

The institution of a Minister General is to be accomplished by the Bishop Visitor of the community, at a Holy Eucharist in the presence of as many members of the community as possible. The former and newly elected Ministers General are seated in choir; the newly elected Minister General is without his cross, which has been refurnished with the chain required by the Customary.

The Examination

Bishop Visitor The newly elected Minister General will now be presented.

The Ministers Provincial come before the Bishop Visitor flanking the new Minister General, and say

Bishop N., we have come together to welcome Brother N.N., who has been chosen to serve as Minister General of the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory. We believe that he is well qualified, and that he has been prayerfully elected, in accordance with the Constitution of the community.

The senior Minister Provincial reads the testimonial of election:

Be it known to all, that, in accordance with its Constitution, the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory, meeting in Chapter on the _____ day of _____, in the year of our Lord _____, has elected Brother N.N. to the office of Minister General of this community, to serve for a term of six years.

In witness whereof, we, Ministers Provincial of the community, have set our hands and subscribed our names to this testimonial.

The Bishop Visitor then says

Brother N., do you, in the presence of these your brothers, commit yourself to this new trust and responsibility?

Minister General I do.

The Bishop Visitor then addresses the community assembled

Will you who witness this new beginning support and uphold Brother N. in his ministry?

Assembly We will.

The Bishop Visitor, standing, says

Let us then offer our prayers to God for all the church, for this community, and for Brother N.

The Prayers of the People

There follows the Litany. In place of the usual concluding collect, the Bishop Visitor reads the following

Everliving God, without whom nothing is strong, and nothing can survive: Strengthen and sustain Brother N., that with patience and understanding he may love and care for this community; and grant that together they may follow Jesus Christ, offering you their gifts and talents; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Investiture

After the sermon and Nicene Creed (if said), the Bishop Visitor, the Ministers Provincial and other members of the community present the following to the Minister General, the assembled community responding after each presentation.

The most junior professed brother presents a copy of the Rule, saying

Receive the Rule of the Brotherhood, and be to us an example of obedience. *Amen.*

The Bishop Visitor presents the crozier, saying

Receive this staff, and guide the Brotherhood as a wise and generous shepherd. *Amen.*

The former Minister General, or the most senior brother in attendance, presents the new Minister General with his cross, saying

Receive your cross again, being mindful that you stand as a witness to Christ's saving passion. *Amen.*

The Ministers Provincial vest the Minister General in a cope, the senior Minister Provincial saying

Wear this cope, mindful of the weight of responsibility to which you are committed. *Amen.*

Other symbolic gifts may be presented.

The Prayer of Dedication

The new Minister General then kneels in the midst of the assembly, and says

O Lord, you have called me to be a guide and servant to this community. To you and to your service I renew my devotion — body, mind, and spirit. Enable me to serve your servants with a single mind, a loving heart, and a gentle hand. Be with me to strengthen me in doing your will. As you guided our holy father Gregory, so may you guide me in caring for this community, which you have called together. I ask this in the Name of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

The Presentation

The Bishop Visitor then presents the Minister General to the assembly, saying

Greet your Minister General.

Assembly Guide our community; be ready always to
empower, to heal, and to proclaim.

Applause is appropriate.

The liturgy continues with the Peace and the Offertory.

Rites of Convocation

The Gathering Service

This liturgy takes place when the community is gathered for General Chapter. The Minister General is normally officiant. Before the liturgy the community gathers in silence. The chapel is dark. The assembly stands as the officiant and the reader enter during the musical introduction, preceded by an acolyte who bears a taper.

The officiant and reader stand facing the community. The acolyte lights the candles and steps to one side. The chapel lights are put on (dimly if possible) when the candles are lit.

Officiant Light and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Assembly Thanks be to God.

After a few moments of silence, the cantor begins singing the Veni Creator Spiritus. At the end of the first verse, the reader begins

As the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all in the same place together.

Officiant In the year of our Lord _____, the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory gathered for General Chapter. In spirit and in prayer, they were all together in one place.

Reader And suddenly a wild sound like a violent wind came out of heaven and filled the whole house as they sat there. And they saw dividing tongues, like fire among them and sitting on each one of them. Filled with the Holy Spirit, all began speaking in different languages, just as the Spirit gave them to declare.

Officiant The brothers have witnessed to the Holy Spirit in their lives, by doing the work the Lord has given them to do, to the honor and glory of God alone. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, they have experienced the love of God in Christ Jesus, and have shared that love with others.

Pause as the water bearer begins to come up the aisle. When he has almost reached the chancel, the reader continues

Now, Judeans — devout men — were living in Jerusalem, of every people under heaven. Word of this reaching them, they crowded together, confused because each of them heard their own dialect being spoken. Amazed and marveling, they said, “Aren’t all of these who are speaking Galileans? How is it that each of us is hearing our mother tongue, telling of God’s greatness.” All of them were amazed and at a loss, asking each other, “What could this be?” though others mocked and said, “They are full of sweet wine.”

Officiant The message that the brothers brought was received as it was given, with love. A time had come for new wine skins for new wine, and by remaining true to the vocation to which they were called, the brothers continue to proclaim the Gospel, both in word and in deed.

Pause as the oil bearer begins to come up the aisle. When he has almost reached the chancel, the reader continues

But Peter lifted his voice and addressed them, “Let this be known to you, and heed my words. These are not, as you suppose, drunk; it is only nine in the morning! Rather this is what was said by the prophet Joel: ‘It will be in the last days, says God, that I will pour of my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your youths shall see visions, and your elders dream dreams. Even on my menservants and maidservants in those days I will pour of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will give wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth below.’

Pause until the music stops. The water and oil bearers, who have taken positions on the left and right of the officiant and reader, now come forward and stand before the officiant, facing the assembly and holding out the water and oil.

Officiant My brothers, we are gathered together here to commemorate our baptism in water and the Holy Spirit. The Lord be with you.

Assembly And also with you.

Officiant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Assembly It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Officiant Almighty God, we thank you for the water of baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. May this water be a reminder to us of this new life to which we are reborn. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we are anointed as joint heirs to the royal priesthood of Jesus Christ. May this oil be to us a reminder of that calling and commission, as we share with Christ in his eternal priesthood. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

Assembly Amen.

Officiant My brothers, I invite you to come forward to dip your hand in this water and mark yourselves with the sign of the cross, as a reminder of your baptism, and to be anointed with this oil as a reminder of your sealing by the Holy Spirit.

The water bearer passes the water to the reader, and the oil bearer passes the oil to the officiant. They turn to the assembly with a sign of invitation.

As each comes forward and takes water from the bowl, the reader says

My brother, remember that you are incorporate in the Body of Christ.

As he anoints each on the forehead with oil, the officiant says

My brother, remember that you are sealed by the Holy Spirit as Christ's own for ever.

Throughout this portion of the liturgy, the brothers sing the chant, Veni Creator Spiritus, beginning with the melody and later adding harmony parts.

When all have been anointed and return to their places, the oil and water are set aside. Psalms 133 and 134 are then sung by all.

Oh, how good and pleasant it is, *
when brethren live together in unity.

It is like fine oil upon the head *
that runs down upon the beard,

Upon the beard of Aaron, *
and runs down upon the collar of his robe.

It is like the dew of Hermon *
that falls upon the hills of Zion.

For there the LORD has ordained the blessing: *
life for evermore.

Behold now, bless the LORD, all you servants of the LORD, *
you that stand by night in the house of the LORD.

Lift up your hands in the holy place and bless the LORD; *
the LORD who made heaven and earth
bless you out of Zion.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever.
Amen.

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

Assembly Thanks be to God.

The closing hymn is sung.

Ye watchers and ye holy ones,
bright seraphs, cherubim and thrones,
raise the glad strain, Alleluia!

Cry out, dominions, principedoms, powers,
virtues, archangels, angels' choirs,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

O higher than the cherubim,
more glorious than the seraphim,
lead their praises, Alleluia!

Thou bearer of the eternal word,
most gracious, magnify the Lord,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Respond, ye souls in endless rest,
ye patriarchs and prophets blest,
alleluia, alleluia!

Ye holy twelve, ye martyrs strong,
all saints triumphant raise the song,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

O friends, in gladness let us sing,
supernal anthems echoing,
alleluia, alleluia!

To God the Father, God the Son,
and God the Spirit, Three in One,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Evening Prayer, beginning with the salutation and Lord's Prayer, may follow.

The Mission Service

Minister General Glory to God, whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.

Assembly Glory to God from generation to generation in the church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever; to God alone the glory.

The Minister General says the Community Collect, after which the assembly begins singing a suitable meditation. Brothers, one by one, kneel before the Minister General. Laying his hands on each, he says

May the Holy Spirit guide and strengthen you, that in all things you may serve and glorify God.

When all have been so commissioned, the following psalm is sung.

The LORD is my shepherd; * I shall not be in want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures *
and leads me beside still waters.

He revives my soul *
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil *
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You spread a table before me
in the presence of those who trouble me; *
you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup is running over.

Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life, *
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, * and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now, * and will be for ever. Amen.

Minister General Servants of the servants of God, go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

Assembly Thanks be to God, to whom alone be glory.

A hymn may be sung.

The Community Collect and Litany

The Community Collect

Almighty and most merciful God, we have taken up the name of your faithful and holy servant, Saint Gregory the Great, whose life exemplified his motto, Servant of the sêrvants of God: Grant us the guidance of your Holy Spirit in our lives and works, that we may possess our patron's zeal and devotion to your holy Chûrch; that through our efforts your people may come to live in that spirit of devotion: *Soli Deo Gloria*—to God alone the glory; and this we ask in the name of Jesus Christ your Son our Lórd, who lives and reigns with you and the same Spirít, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

or this

Almighty God, you gave to Gregory the Great the wisdom and will to devote himself to ministry in your church as a servant of the sêrvants of God: Grant that we, who have taken up his náme, may serve your people with that same spirit of devotion, *Soli Deo Gloria*, to God alone the glory; through Jesus Christ our Lórd, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Litany

With all our heart and mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying,
“Lord, have mercy.”

For the peace from above, for the loving kindness of God, and
for the salvátion of our souls, let us prày to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the holy church
of God, and for the únity of all peoples, let us prày to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For *N.*, our Visitor, for Richard Thomas, our Founder and [*N.*
our] Minister General, for *N.*, our Primate, *N.*, Archbishop of
Canterbury, *N.*, the Bishop of Rome, *N.*, the Ecumenical
Patriarch of Constantinople, [for *N.*,] for all other bishops,
clergy and religious, and for all the holy péople of God, let us
prày to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our president, for the leaders of the nations, and for áll in
authority, let us prày to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this *city*, for every city and community, ánd for those who
live in them, let us prày to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the -
wisdom and wíll to conserve it, let us prày to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and fór
the sick and suffering, let us prày to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the reconciliation and unity of the péople of God, let us
prày to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who reméber and care for them, let us prày to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrêction, especially Horace, Walter, and Paul; John, William, Bernard, John Peter, Thomas Joseph, Patrick Ignatius, Edward, Charles, Damian-Curtis, Michael, Ron, Max, Luke Anthony, Robert James, [N.], and for áll the departed, let us prày to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering ánd without reproach, let us prày to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

O God, you dwell in light etérnal: Look with favor on your *servant N.*, as *he makes his* life profession of vows, that as *his life is* here given away into your service, *he* may one day rejoice to hear, “Well done, good and faithful servant; énter into joy”; we prày to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

O God, you renew the life of the world day by day and yêar by year: Bless your *servant N.*, as *he renews his* vows of profession, and pour your grace upon *N.* as *he makes his* first vows of profession, guiding *him* that *he* may live the religious life to the glory óf your Name alone; we prày to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

O God, you are the source of our life and strêngth: Bless your *servant N.* as *he is* received into the novitiate, and *N.* as *he is* admitted to the postulancy, that *he* may put on the fullness of humanity which is given in Christ Jesus, not that *he* may be kept from the world, but that *he* may be képt from all things evil; we prày to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

O God, you call us to see you more clearly, to follow you more nearly, and to love you more d early: Guide by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit all those whom you have called to the religious life, that they may go forward with courage, and perse ere to the end; we pr ay to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

In the communion of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed Gregory the Great, Blessed Augustine of Canterbury, [Blessed N.,] and of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

To you, O Lord, our God.

When used as the Prayers of the People at a Holy Eucharist during which community rites are performed, and at other times as appropriate, the Litany may conclude with this collect. If the Community Collect has not been used in the same liturgy, it may be used at the conclusion of this Litany.

O God, you guided your servant Gregory, as an example of faith, a model of meekness, a teacher of abstinence, and a wise and faithful sh epherd in your church: Grant that, like him, we may acquire the highest things by humility, and riches through poverty, through Jesus Christ your S on, our Lord. *Amen.*

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