

Procedure on Receiving Converts into the Catholic Church

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For the glory of God; in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Michael, St. Joseph, Ss. Joachim and Anne, St. John the Baptist, the other angels and saints; and for the salvation of men

Original version: 7/2022; Current version: 2/2024

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Procedure of Making Candidates Catechumens

To become a catechumen, the candidate must consent to the *Profession of Faith for the Days of the Great Apostasy*. He does not have to be living a moral life and thus may be committing mortal sins. But he must have a firm purpose to stop committing mortal sins, as he will not be allowed to become a member of the Catholic Church until he is no longer committing mortal sins.

Normally, a Catholic bishop makes candidates catechumens. He does so when he lays his hands upon them after they make a profession of faith. However, if a Catholic bishop is not available in the foreseeable future, then a Catholic priest can make them catechumens. If a Catholic priest is not available in the foreseeable future, then the candidates become catechumens as soon as they sign the *Consent Form for the Profession of Faith for the Days of the Great Apostasy*.

The candidates must fill out the *Consent Form* ahead of time but must not sign it.

At the beginning of the ceremony, the minister recites the consent form and says “you” instead of “I.” In the place of the name, he names all who are to become catechumens. If there are very many candidates, he can say “All here present who are preparing to become catechumens.” When done, the candidates must say, “I do” and then sign the form. The Catholic bishop or priest will then lay his hands upon each one of them at which point they will become catechumens. If no Catholic bishop or priest is available in the foreseeable future, then they become catechumens when they sign the consent form.

The minister then says,

“Congratulations, you are now catechumens and thus are Catholic. May God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, through God the Son Jesus Christ and the mediation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, of St. Joseph, the Patron of the Catholic Church, and of St. Michael the Archangel, the most glorious prince of the heavenly army, grant you all the graces and other helps you need to make progress in learning the Catholic faith and becoming good Catholic in order to become members of the Catholic Church, outside of which there is no remission of sin nor salvation.”

The Final Blessing:

“May the Lord bless thee and keep thee. May the Lord show his face to thee and have mercy on thee. May the Lord turn his countenance to thee and grant thee peace.” (Num. 6:24-26)

Procedure of Making Candidates Members of the Catholic Church

There are three kinds of candidates: 1) those who were not baptized; 2) those who were doubtfully baptized; and 3) those who were certainly baptized.

To become a member of the Catholic Church, the candidates must consent to the *Profession of Faith for the Days of the Great Apostasy*, and they must be living a moral life, which means they must not be committing any mortal sin, for at least six months.

However, if they are in danger of death, they must at least know and believe all the basic dogmas and then they can enter the Catholic Church immediately. If the danger of death passes and thus they survive, they must continue to learn the Catholic faith and live by it.

Normally, a Catholic bishop is the one who makes candidates members of the Church.

If a Catholic bishop is not available in the foreseeable future, then a Catholic priest can receive them into the Church.

If no Catholic bishop or priest is available in the foreseeable future, then the converts enter the Catholic Church after they sign the *Consent Form for the Profession of Faith for the Days of the Great Apostasy* and are baptized if they were not previously validly baptized; or, conditionally baptized if they were doubtfully baptized; or as soon as they sign the Consent Form if it is certain that they were previously validly baptized.

Anyone can baptize candidates into the Catholic Church, even unbelievers. But the choice must be made in the following order: 1) a male member of the Catholic Church; 2) a female member of the Catholic Church; 3) a male catechumen; 4) a female catechumen; 5) a male unbeliever; and, 6) a female unbeliever.

(To learn about the Sacrament of Baptism and its ritual, see RJMI book *Sacraments without a Priest: The Sacrament of Baptism without a Priest*.)

Reception of Unbaptized Candidates into the Catholic Church

The candidates must fill out the *Consent Form for Profession of Faith for the Days of the Great Apostasy* ahead of time but not sign it.

At the beginning of the ceremony, the minister recites the consent form and says “you” instead of “I.” In the place of the name, he names all who are to become members. If there are very many candidates, he can say “All here present who are preparing to become members of the Catholic Church.” When done, the candidates must say, “I do” and then sign the form.

The Catholic bishop or priest will then baptize the candidates at which point they will become members of the Catholic Church. If no Catholic bishop or priest is available in the foreseeable future, then any other person (the order of which is stated above) may baptize them at which point they will become members of the Catholic Church.

The minister then says,

“Congratulations, you are now members of the Catholic Church and thus of the faithful. May God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, through God the Son Jesus Christ and the mediation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, of St. Joseph, the Patron of the Catholic Church, and of St. Michael the Archangel, the most glorious prince of the heavenly army, grant you all the graces and other helps you need to give glory to God, to be perfect and holy, to save your souls, and to help save the souls of others.”

Minister: “Let us pray together.”

The Our Father:

Minster: “Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

New Members: “Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and let us not fall into temptation, but deliver us from evil, Amen.”

The Hail Mary:

Minster: “Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

New Members: Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

The Glory Be:

Minister: Glory be to the Father and the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

New Members: “As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall, forever and ever. Amen.”

The Final Blessing:

“May the Lord bless thee and keep thee. May the Lord show his face to thee and have mercy on thee. May the Lord turn his countenance to thee and grant thee peace.” (Num. 6:24-26)

Reception of Doubtfully Baptized Candidates into the Catholic Church

Those whose baptism was doubtfully valid must abjure or make a profession of faith and then be conditionally baptized.

- If their doubtful baptism was invalid, then their conditional baptism would be valid and thus all their sins and the punishment due to their sins are remitted by baptism.
- If their doubtful baptism was valid, then they enter the Catholic Church by their abjuration or profession of faith. And if this is the first time they were members of the Catholic Church, all their sin and the punishment due to their sins are remitted as soon as they enter the Catholic Church. However, if they were previously members of the Catholic Church, then they must conditional confess the mortal sins they committed during the time they were outside the Catholic Church for them to be remitted; but the punishment due to their sins will not be remitted.¹

The candidates must fill out the *Consent Form for Profession of Faith for the Days of the Great Apostasy* ahead of time but not sign it.

At the beginning of the conditional abjuration or profession of faith, the minister recites the consent form and says “do you” instead of “I.” In the place of the name, he names all who are to become members. If there are very many candidates, he can say “All here present who are preparing to become members of the Catholic Church.” The candidates must then say, “I do” and then sign the form.

A Catholic bishop or priest or layman or other person will then conditionally baptize the candidates.

The minister then says,

“Congratulations, you are now members of the Catholic Church and thus of the faithful. May God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, through God the Son Jesus Christ and the mediation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, of St. Joseph, the Patron of the Catholic Church, and of St. Michael the Archangel, the most glorious prince of the heavenly army, grant you all the graces and other helps you need to give glory to God, to be perfect and holy, to save your souls, and to help save the souls of others.”

Minister: “Let us pray together.”

The Our Father:

Minster: “Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

New Members: “Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and let us not fall into temptation, but deliver us from evil, Amen.”

The Hail Mary:

Minster: “Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

¹ See in this book “Instructions regarding confession for the doubtfully baptized and baptized candidates,” p. 9.

New Members: Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death.
Amen.

The Glory Be:

Minister: Glory be to the Father and the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

New Members: “As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall, forever and ever. Amen.”

The Final Blessing:

“May the Lord bless thee and keep thee. May the Lord shew his face to thee and have mercy on thee. May the Lord turn his countenance to thee and grant thee peace.” (Num. 6:24-26)

Reception of Baptized Candidates into the Catholic Church

The candidates must fill out the *Consent Form for Profession of Faith for the Days of the Great Apostasy* ahead of time but not sign it.

At the beginning of the ceremony, the minister recites the consent form and says “you” instead of “I.” In the place of the name, he names all who are to become members. If there are very many candidates, he can say “All here present who are preparing to become members of the Catholic Church.” When done the candidates must say, “I do” and then sign the form.

The Catholic bishop or priest will then lay his hands upon each one of them at which point they will become members of the Catholic Church. If no Catholic bishop or priest is available in the foreseeable future, then they become members when they sign the consent form.

The minister then says,

“Congratulations, you are now members of the Catholic Church and thus of the faithful. May God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, through God the Son Jesus Christ and the mediation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, of St. Joseph, the Patron of the Catholic Church, and of St. Michael the Archangel, the most glorious prince of the heavenly army, grant you all the graces and other helps you need to give glory to God, to be perfect and holy, to save your soul, and to help save the souls of others.”

Minister: “Let us pray together.”

The Our Father:

Minster: “Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

New Members: “Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and let us not fall into temptation, but deliver us from evil, Amen.”

The Hail Mary:

Minster: “Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.”

New Members: Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

The Glory Be:

Minister: Glory be to the Father and the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

New Members: “As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall, forever and ever. Amen.”

The Final Blessing:

“May the Lord bless thee and keep thee. May the Lord shew his face to thee and have mercy on thee. May the Lord turn his countenance to thee and grant thee peace.” (Num. 6:24-26)

Instructions regarding confession for the doubtfully baptized and baptized candidates

Baptized converts who were previously members of the Catholic Church can only have their mortal sins remitted by confession. Hence they must go to confession to an authorized priest after they enter the Catholic Church by abjuration to have their mortal sins remitted. And the confessor must then give them a fitting penance or other works of satisfaction.²

However, converts who were baptized outside the Catholic Church and were never members of the Catholic Church do not have to go to confession after they enter the Catholic Church because all their sins and the punishment due to their sins were remitted as soon as they entered the Catholic Church for the first time. Hence no penance or other works of satisfaction is imposed upon them after they enter the Catholic Church. They are similar to unbaptized converts who enter the Catholic Church by baptism. No matter how long they lived, no matter how many sins they committed, and no matter how much punishment due to sins they incurred, all their sins and the punishment due to their sins is remitted as soon as they enter the Catholic Church by baptism.

(See for more information, see RJMI book *On Abjuration*.)

² If a Catholic priest will not be available in the foreseeable future, the faithful must worthily confess their sins directly to God and he will remit their sins. (For more information, see RJMI book *Sacraments without a Priest: The Sacrament of Penance without a Priest*.)