

SOLEMN PROFESSION
AND
MONASTIC CONSECRATION



CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST
AND

SOLEMN PROFESSION AND
MONASTIC CONSECRATION OF
SISTER MARÍA ISABEL GÓMEZ, O.S.B.

BENEDICTINE NUN OF
SAINT SCHOLASTICA PRIORY
PETERSHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

MOST REV. ROBERT J. MCMANUS
BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF WORCESTER
PRESIDING CELEBRANT

JUNE 13, 2020

OF
SISTER MARÍA ISABEL GÓMEZ, O.S.B.

NUN OF ST SCHOLASTICA PRIORY
PETERSHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

JUNE 13, 2016

Simon of Cyrene: photograph by Fr. Lawrence Lew, O.P.

Nuestra Señora de la Altagracia, in Higüey, Dominican Republic

PRINCIPAL CELEBRANT:

MOST REV. ROBERT J. MCMANUS

CONCELEBRANTS:

FR. MICHAEL KISSANE O.CARM

ABBOT PATRICK KOKORIAN M.M.A.

REV. DOM GREGORY PHILLIPS, O.S.B

REV. DOM DUNSTAN ROBERTSON, O.S.B.

HOMILIST: REV. DOM GREGORY PHILLIPS, O.S.B.

ALTAR SERVERS: MONKS OF ST. MARY'S MONASTERY

MISTRESS OF CEREMONIES:

SR. MARY PAULA WENZEL, O.S.B.

OPENING RITES

INTROIT

Laetetur cor quærentium Dominum: quærite Dominum, et confirmamini: quærite faciem eius semper.

Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice. Seek the Lord, and be strengthened; Seek his face evermore.



KYRIE IX



GLORIA IX

OPENING PRAYER

O God, who willed that the grace of Baptism should flourish in this your servant, so that she might strive to follow more closely in the footsteps of your Son, grant, we pray, that, constantly seeking evangelical perfection, she may add to the holiness of your Church and increase her apostolic zeal. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

SONG OF SONGS 8:6-7

GRADUAL

Unam petii a Domino hanc requiram: ut inhabitem in domo Domini.

One thing I ask of the Lord, this I will seek: to dwell in the house of the Lord.

V. Ut videam voluptatem Domini: et protegar templo sancto eius.

V. That I might see the beauty of the Lord and might be protected in his holy temple.

SECOND READING

1 PETER 1:3-9

ALLELUIA

Alleluia. Lauda, anima mea, Dominum: Laudabo Dominum in vita mea: psallam Deo meo, quamdiu ero.

Alleluia. Praise the Lord, O my soul: I will praise the Lord all my life: I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 16:24-27

HOMILY

RITE OF PROFESSION

All Please Sit

INVOCATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

All stand.

Veni, creator Spiritus,
mentes tuorum visita,
imple superna gratia,
quae tu, creasti, pectora.

*Come, Creator Spirit,
visit the souls of your people,
fill with your heavenly grace
the hearts which you have made.*

Qui díceris Paráclitus,
donum Dei altíssimi,
fons vivus, ignis, cáritas,
et spiritalis únctio.

*You are called the Comforter,
the gift of God most high,
the living fountain, fire, love,
and spiritual unction.*

Tu septifórmis múnere,
dextrae Dei tu dígitus,
tu rite promíssum Patris
sermóne ditans gúttura.

*You are sevenfold in your gifts,
finger of God's right hand,
you are the solemn promise of the
Father, enriching tongues with speech.*

Accénde lumen sénsibus,
infúnde amórem córdibus,
infrma nostri córporis,
virtúte firmans pérpeti.

*Enkindle your light in our senses,
flood your love into our hearts;
make strong the weakness of our flesh
with your unfailing power.*

Hostem répellas lóngius
pacémque dones prótinus;
ductóre sic te praevio
vitémus omne nóxium.

*Drive far away our enemy,
and grant constant peace;
so that with you leading as our guide
we may avoid all evil.*

Per te sciámus da Patrem
noscámus atque Fílium,
te utriúsqe Spíritum
credámus omni témpore. Amen.

*Grant that through you we may know
the Father, and we may know the Son,
and may we ever believe in you,
the Spirit of them both. Amen.*



THE CALLING

Fr. Gregory: Sr. María Isabel Gómez, the Lord calls you to follow him.

Sister: Lord, you have called me; here I am.

THE EXAMINATION

The Very Reverend Mother Mary Elizabeth Kloss, O.S.B., Prioress of Saint Scholastica Priory, questions Sr. María Isabel on her determination to commit herself to the following of Christ by making monastic profession.

Prioress: Dear sister, in baptism you have already died to sin and have been set aside for God's service. Are you now resolved to unite yourself more closely to God by the bond of monastic profession?

Sister: I am.

LITANY

Bishop: Let us pray to God the Father who gives us everything that is good: in his mercy may be strengthen his servant in the purpose he has inspired in her.

M.C.: Let us kneel.

Sr. Maria Isabel prostrates.



Kyrie, eleíson. *Repeat.*
 Christe, eleíson. *Repeat.*
 Kyrie, eleíson. *Repeat.*

Sancta María,	ora pro nobis.	Sancti Augustíne et	
Sancta Déi Génatrix,	ora	Hierónyme,	oráte
Sancta Virgo Vírginum,	ora	Sancte Cyrille,	ora
Beata María Regína,	ora	Sancte Anselme,	ora
Beáta María de		Sancte Isidóre,	ora
Monte Carmélo,	ora	Sancte Patríce,	ora
Beata María de Guadalúpe,	ora	Sancte Bernárde,	ora
Sancti Míchael, Gábriel		Sancta Terésia de Iesu,	ora
et Ráphael,	oráte pro nobis.	Sancta Terésia a Iesu Infánte,	ora
Sancte Isaía,	ora	Sancte Ioáñnes a Cruce,	ora
Sancte Ieremía,	ora	Sancte Pater Benedícite,	ora
Sancte Ioseph,	ora	Sancta Scholástica,	ora
Sancte Ioáñnes Baptísta,	ora	Sancte Dunstáne,	ora
Sancti Petre et Paule,	oráte	Sancta Mechtíldis,	ora
Sancti Ioáñnes et Iacóbe,	oráte	Sancta Gertrúdis,	ora
Sancte Luca,	ora	Sancte Francísce,	ora
Sancte Matthæe,	ora	Sancta Clara,	ora
Sancte Marce,	ora	Sancta Elísabeth a Trinitáte,	ora
Sancte Iude,	ora	Sancta Terésia Benedícta	
Omnes sancti Apóstoli,	oráte	a Cruce,	ora
Sancta Elísabeth,	ora	Sancte Vincéti (de Paul),	ora
Sancta Martha,	ora	Beáte Colúmba (Marmion),	ora
Sancta María Magdaléna,	ora	Sancta Elísabeth Anna,	ora
Omnes sancti discípuli		Sancta Terésia (Calcutta),	ora
Dómini	oráte	Sancte Herbérte,	ora
Sancte Stanisláe,	ora	Sancta Mónica,	ora
Sancte Maximiliáni Maríæ,	ora	Sancta Catherina Senénsis,	ora
Sancta Christína,	ora	Sancte Benedícite-Joseph,	ora
Sancte Leo et Gregóri	oráte	Sancta Gemma,	ora

Propitius esto,
Lord, be merciful,

Ab omni malo,
From every sin,

Ab omni peccáto
From every sin,

A morte perpétua,
From everlasting death,

líbera nos, Dómine
save us, O Lord

líbera nos, Dómine
save us, O Lord

líbera nos, Dómine
save us, O Lord

líbera nos Dómine
save us, O Lord

Per incarnatióem tuam,
By your incarnation,

Per crucem et passióem tuam,
By your Passion and Cross,

Per mortem et resurrectiόem tuam,
By your death and resurrection,

Per effusiόem Spíritus Sancti,
By the outpouring of the Holy Spirit,

Christe, audi nos.
Christ, hear us.

líbera nos Dómine
save us, O Lord

líbera nos Dómine
save us, O Lord

líbera nos Dómine
save us, O Lord

líbera nos Dómine
save us, O Lord

Christe, exáudi nos.
Christ, graciously hear us.

The bishop rises and says, with hands extended:

Lord, grant the prayers of your people. Prepare the heart of your servant for consecration to your service. By the grace of the Holy Spirit, purify her from all sin and set her on fire with your love. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

M.C: Let us rise.

Sr. María Isabel stands before the prioress.



PROFESSION

All stand.

Prioress: Are you resolved to prefer nothing to the love of Christ, to commit yourself to him with a free and joyful heart, and to promise stability in this monastery of Saint Scholastica?

Sister: I am.

Prioress: Are you resolved to commit yourself to the unremitting search for God in the monastic life, according to the Rule of our holy Father Benedict?

Sister: I am.

Prioress: Are you resolved to live under obedience, following Christ who came in obedience to his Father's will?

Sister: I am.

Prioress: May God give you the help of his grace.

All: Amen.



Sr. María Isabel reads her profession chart aloud, takes it to the altar and signs it. The prioress also signs the chart. Sr. María Isabel shows the chart to the bishop and to each nun and monk. As the chart is shown to each twin community member, they bow their head to signify their witnessing and acceptance of it. She then shows the chart to the people and to the concelebrants. She places the chart on the altar, and the bishop moves to his seat in front of the altar. Sr. María Isabel stands before the bishop. The bishop removes the miter, puts aside the crozier. She then sings the Suscipe three times. It is repeated each time by all and followed by the doxology after the third repetition:

Suscipe me, Dómine, secúndum elóquium tuum, et vivam, et non confúndas me ab expectatióne mea. Glória Patri et Fílio et Spíritui Sancto. Sicut erat in princípío et nunc et semper, et in sáecula sáeculorum. Amen.
Receive me, Lord, as you have promised, and I shall live; do not disappoint me in my hope. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.



The following is intoned by the bishop, and the whole congregation continues:

Confirma hoc Deus, quod operátus es in nobis, a templo sancto tuo, quod est in Jerúsalem, allelúia, allelúia.

Confirm this, O God, which you have wrought in us: from your holy temple, which is in Jerusalem, alleluia, alleluia.

SOLEMN PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

The solemnly professed nuns and monks of St. Scholastica Priory and St. Mary's Monastery come out to form the corona for the Prayer of Consecration, while Sr. María Isabel prostrates.

Bishop: O God, through the Son who shares your eternal being you have created all things, and by the mystery of his holy incarnation you have renewed a world grown old in sin. Our sister María Isabel has renounced her secular way of life. Look with favor upon her and make her new in mind and spirit.

By the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
help her to strip off our old fallen nature with its habits
and be clothed with the new,
created after the image of God.
Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Bishop: Lord Jesus Christ,
you are our only way to the Father.
Have mercy on our sister María Isabel;
free her from worldly desires
and lead her along the path of monastic observance.
You yourself declared that you had come
to call sinners, saying:
'Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened,
and I will give you rest.'
May that invitation enable our sister
to lay down the burden of her sins,
taste the sweetness of your love,
and find strength in the nourishment you provide for her.
May she be numbered among the sheep who belong to you
and know your voice,
so that she may follow none but you
and heed no voice but yours;
for you have said:
'Whoever would serve me must follow me,'
and you are the Lord our God,
living and reigning for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

The bishop and those in the corona extend their hands over Sr. María Isabel. The bishop continues:

Holy Spirit of God,
we have come to know you as our Lord.
Like the wind, you breathe where you will;
breathe now upon our Sister María Isabel
and inspire her to give herself generously to your service.
By your wisdom she was created;

may she be guided by your providence.
May the grace of your anointing
teach her your will in all things.
Through the intercession of the blessed Virgin Mary,
Mother of God,
of our holy father Benedict
whom you appointed to be our lawgiver,
and of all those saints
whom our sister has asked to be her witnesses,
we pray you to give her the grace of true conversion.
Come, Holy Spirit, source of life. Without you we can do
nothing: but with your help, the kingdom of heaven lies
open before us.
Grant that our sister may live by faith, rooted in hope, al-
ways ready to receive your love and to show it to others.

All: Amen.



Give her a spirit of prayer, that she may be eager for the
work of God, and learn to discover you within the depths of
her heart.

All: Amen.

Grant her a heart free from worldly care and attachments,
ready to listen obediently to every word you send her.

All: Amen.

Lead her into that interior wilderness, where she may develop a spirit of silence and solitude; and so, purified through the trials and humiliations of our life, may reach that perfect love which casts out fear.

All: Amen.

Grant her a spirit of simplicity and purity of heart.

All: Amen.

Grant her discernment, integrity and poverty of spirit.

All: Amen.

All now lower their hands.

Keep her from the empty attractions of this world.

You are the source of all forgiveness:

set her free from every bond of sin and give her a burning zeal for the pursuit of her holy purpose.

In times of trial and hardship may she find relief in your unfailing consolation.

Through genuine humility and obedience may she be firmly rooted in love for her sisters; may she persevere in bringing forth the fruits of justice and holiness, and so joyfully fulfill the promise which by your grace she has made this day. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

THE GIVING OF THE MONASTIC INSIGNIA

Bishop and all sit. Sr. María Isabel stands.

Bishop: Lord Jesus Christ, who in your great mercy put on the garment of our mortality, we address our prayer to you. Our sister is now about to put on the monastic habit prescribed by our ancient fathers as a sign of the life of purity and humility embraced by those who renounce the world. Pour out your abundant blessing upon her, Lord, and grant that she may not only wear the outward habit of religion but also be inwardly clothed with yourself.

All: Amen.

The prioress gives the cowl to Sr. María Isabel, saying:

Receive the habit of Saint Benedict. Be faithful to the promise of stability, conversion of life, and obedience you have made before God and his holy angels, and you will enjoy their everlasting fellowship, together with all the saints who have worn this holy habit before you.

Nun: Amen.



She sings with the choir:

Regnum mundi, et omnem ornatum saeculi contempsi propter amorem Dómini mei Jesu Christi: quem vidi, quem amávi, in quem crédidi, quem diléxi. Eructávit cor meum verbum bonum, dico ego ópera mea Regi.

The kingdom of the world and all its pomp I have scorned, for the love of our Lord Jesus Christ; whom I have seen, whom I have loved, in whom I have believed, whom I have cherished. V. My heart has uttered a good word: I speak my works to the king.

Kneeling before the bishop, he gives the veil to Sr. María Isabel, saying:

Receive this veil which proclaims that you belong entirely to Christ the Lord and are dedicated to the service of his Church.



Then Sr. María Isabel sings: The Lord has set his mark upon my brow as a sign that I belong to him.

Sr. María Isabel stands before the bishop who presents the ring as he says:

Receive this ring, for you are betrothed to the eternal King; keep faith with your Bridegroom so that you may come to the wedding feast of eternal joy.

Sr. María Isabel : Amen.

She then sings: I am espoused to him whom the angels serve; sun and moon stand in wonder at his glory.



The bishop gives the newly-professed the Antiphonale, saying:

Receive this book, and see that you put nothing before the work of God. Sing his praises night and day and glorify him in his holy Church.

The prioress gives the newly-professed the sign of peace, saying:

We confirm that you are now one with us as a member of this monastic community, sharing all things in common with us now and in the future.

*The members of both communities manifest their assent, saying: **Amen.***

The newly-professed nun exchanges the sign of peace with the solemnly-professed members of Saint Scholastica Priory and Saint Mary's Monastery.

The Liturgy continues with the Intercessory Prayers.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

OFFERTORY

Exspéctans expectávi Dóminum, et respéxit me: Et exaudivit deprecationem meam, et immísit in os meum cánticum novum, Deo nostro. *I waited with expectation for the Lord, and he looked upon me and heard my prayer; and he put a new song into my mouth, a hymn to our God.*



PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Receive the gifts and intentions of your servants, O Lord,
and confirm in your love
those who profess the evangelical counsels.
Through Christ our Lord.

SANCTUS

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER IV

*In Eucharistic Prayer IV, in the intercessions for final profession of women
is said:*

...Be mindful also of this sister
who today has consecrated herself to you perpetually
by a sacred pledge.

COMMUNION RITE

AGNUS DEI

COMMUNION

*The newly-professed nun receives communion immediately after the principal
celebrant.*

Qui vult venire post me, abneget
semetipsum: et tollat crucem suam,
et sequitur me.

*Whoever wishes to come after me, let him
deny himself, and take up his cross and
follow me.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May the mysteries we have received
fill us with joy, O Lord,
and grant that by their power
this your servant may faithfully fulfill
the duties of the religious life she has begun
and may offer you willing service.
Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

SOLEMN BLESSING

Sr. Maria Isabel goes to the middle of the choir for the final blessing.

Bishop: God inspires all holy desires and brings them to fulfillment. May he protect you always by his grace so that you may fulfill the duties of your vocation with a faithful heart.

All: Amen.

Bishop: May he make you a witness and sign of his love for all people.

All: Amen.

Bishop: May he make those bonds with which he has bound you to Christ on earth endure forever in heavenly love.

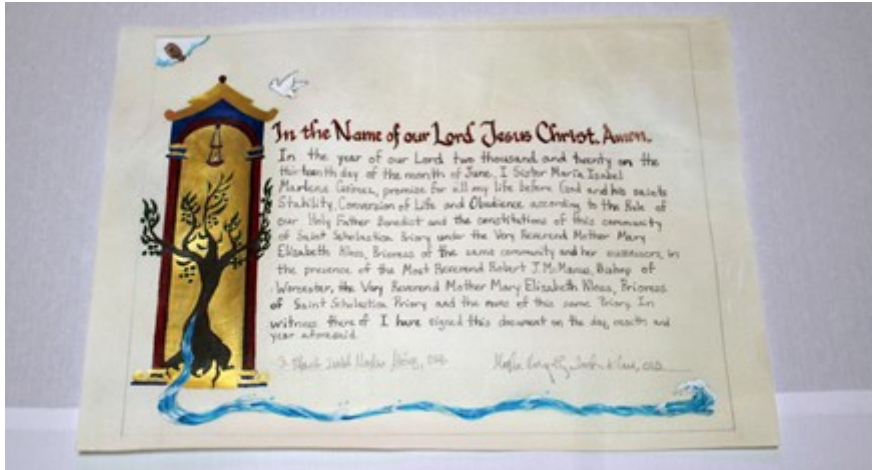
All: Amen.

The bishop blesses the whole assembly, saying:

May Almighty God, the Father ✠ and the Son ✠ and the Holy Spirit bless all of you who have taken part in this celebration.

All: Amen.

The bishop takes the profession chart from the altar and entrusts it to the prioress.



Immediately following the conclusion of the Mass, there will be a reception at St. Scholastica Priory, to which all are cordially invited.



The texts have been chosen from the *Monastic Ritual for English-Speaking Nuns of the Order of Saint Benedict* © 1983 Stanbrook Abbey, England. The English chants in the Rite of Profession are by Dom Cyril Karam, O.S.B. Other prayers are taken from the *Monastic Ritual of the Subiaco-Cassinense Congregation O.S.B., English Province*.

