

RITE OF ADMISSION AMONG THE CANDIDATES FOR THE DEACONATE AND THE PRIESTHOOD

After the homily by the Celebrant the Rector of the Seminary presents the aspirants.

Dear brothers and sisters, some members of our community here present before you are asking to be accepted among the candidates for the diaconate and the priesthood. These brothers of ours, while waiting to be summoned one day by the Bishop, have already begun their formation and are committed to modelling their lives ever more closely on the Gospel. I will now call them by name and they will come forward in order to publicly express their holy resolve before the Church.

The Rector calls each of the aspirants to Holy Orders by name.

*Each one responds: **PRESENT.***

The Celebrant addresses the aspirants.

My dear sons, the pastors and teachers responsible for your formation and all those who know you have given a good report about you, which we accept with full confidence.

Are you resolved, in response to the call of the Lord, to carry through to completion your preparation in order to be ready to assume, in the Church, the ministry that will be conferred on you in due time through the sacrament of Orders?

*The aspirants respond all together: **I AM.***

Are you committed to your own spiritual formation in order to become faithful ministers of Christ and of his Body, which is the Church?

*The aspirants respond all together: **I AM.***

The Church welcomes your holy resolve with great joy. May God bring to completion the work He has begun in you.

*All: **AMEN.***

The priests now help the candidates to put on the white alb, sign that from now on in their lives they must continually put on the love of Christ for every man. Here and below, an alb or a cassock may be used.

(optional) **The Ceremony of Vesting**

The altar boys bring the cassocks and stand in front of the Celebrant who says:

As a visible sign of your belonging to the number of those who are ready to give their life for the kingdom of God, these cassocks should be for you a continuous reminder of your vocation.

(The Celebrant blesses the cassocks with the following words).

May God who made tunics for the man and his wife in Eden and clothed them, be present here and bless † these cassocks which will be a visible sign of belonging to Christ. May those who are

covered with them become strong in the Lord and put on the full armour of God so as to be able to resist the devil's tactics and to work for the coming of the kingdom through Christ our Lord.

(The Celebrant sprinkles the cassocks with Holy Water and hands over to each candidate the cassock with the following words).

Put aside your old self, which belongs to your old way of life. Put on the New Man that has been created in the uprightness and holiness of the truth.

CANDIDATE: - Amen.

(The candidate returns to his place and is helped to put on the cassock)

When all the Candidates have put on their cassock they come and stand in front of the Celebrant who says:

By putting on this cassock you resemble that huge number, mentioned in the Book of Revelation, "impossible for any one to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language, standing in front of the Lamb in white robes". You must now be ready to sing the Lord's praises throughout your existence and be always prepared to offer your life for Him. May God be always with you and assist you with His grace.

All: - Amen.

INITIAL PROMISE

1. When all are seminarians

The Rector of the Seminary introduces the Initial Promise.

These candidates for Holy Orders desire to exercise their future ministry at the service of the Gospel according to the missionary charism of the Pontifical Institute for the Foreign Missions. Therefore they ask to be accepted by PIME as candidates for the consecration of their entire lives to the missions.

The Celebrant addresses the candidates.

My dear sons, ... (see no. 4)

2. When there are seminarians and lay missionary candidates together

The Rector introduces the Initial Promise and presents the aspirants.

These candidates for Holy Orders are now joined by other brothers of ours who have heard the call of the Lord to consecrate themselves as lay missionaries. They are aware of being able to make the Church present in the diverse situations of human existence by their evangelizing and sanctifying activities. They will impart the spirit of the Gospel to the temporal order for its perfection, testifying faith, hope, and love in their human relations and in all the realities of the world.

Supported by the favourable judgement of those who have been through the years in charge of their formation, we will now call them by name as well and they will come forward in order to publicly

express their holy resolve before the Church. Candidates for Holy Orders and candidates for consecration as lay missionaries are together awaiting the day when they will become full members of the Pontifical Institute for Foreign Missions. They have decided to give public expression to their desire to continue, with diligence and commitment, the necessary preparation in view of making a total gift of their lives for the service of God and of their brothers.

The Rector calls each of the aspiring lay missionaries by name.

*Each one responds: **PRESENT.***

The Celebrant addresses the candidates.

My dear sons, ... (see no. 4)

3. *When all are lay missionary candidates*

The Rector introduces the Initial Promise and presents the aspirants.

Dear brothers and sisters, some members of our community here present before you are asking to be accepted as candidates for consecration as lay missionaries in the Pontifical Institute for Foreign Missions.

The Church has as her goal the spread of the Reign of Christ throughout the world to the glory of God the Father in order that all men may share in the saving fruits of the redemption. There exists a diversity of ministries in the Church, but a unity of mission. Laymen fully participate in the priestly, prophetic, and royal offices of Christ and, within the mission of the entire people of God, have their own specific role in the Church and in the world.

These brothers of ours are aware of being able to make the Church present in the diverse situations of human existence by their evangelizing and sanctifying activities. They will impart the spirit of the Gospel to the temporal order for its perfection, testifying faith, hope, and love in their human relations and in all the realities of the world.

While awaiting the day when they will become full members of the Pontifical Institute for Foreign Missions, they have decided to give public expression to their desire to continue, with diligence and commitment, the necessary preparation in view of making a total gift of their lives for the service of God and of their brothers as lay missionaries for life.

Supported by the favourable judgement of those who have been through the years in charge of their formation, we will now call them by name and they will come forward in order to publicly express their holy resolve before the Church.

The Rector calls each of the aspiring lay missionaries by name.

*Each one responds: **PRESENT.***

The Celebrant addresses the candidates.

My dear sons, ... (see no. 4)

4. *The text of the Initial Promise is the same for everyone.*

My dear sons, God has chosen you for consecration as missionaries by a special call. Touched and moved by His grace, are you resolved to offer yourself completely for the cause of the missions by means of the Initial Promise, to dedicate your whole life to the evangelization of the non Christians so as to enter into the life and mission of Christ, renouncing your very selves and all you possess, giving everything in order to become all things to everyone?

*The aspirants respond all together: **I AM.***

Your consecration as missionaries has its beginning and will reach its completion through PIME. Are you ready to promise before God and the community of P.I.M.E. to continue your growth towards the total gift of self for the cause of the missions in communion with the members and other candidates of PIME

*The aspirants respond all together: **I AM.***

My dear brothers, by this promise you have committed yourselves to continued growth in your vocation, making yourselves available to receive the assistance and formation that PIME offers for this purpose. For its part PIME is committed to continue your formation in view of your missionary vocation.

The Church and PIME welcome your holy resolve with great joy. May God bring to completion the work He has begun in you.

*All: **AMEN.***

The liturgy continues as usual.