

Canon 833 - The following persons are obliged to make a profession of faith personally in accord with a formula approved by the Apostolic See:

(...)

6° in the presence of the local ordinary or his delegate and at the beginning of their term of office, pastors, the rector of a seminary, and the professors of theology and philosophy in seminaries; those to be promoted to the order of diaconate;

(...)

The Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith has decreed that, effective March 1, 1989, the following formula be used in those cases in which the Profession of Faith is required by canon law:

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I, N.N., with firm faith believe and profess everything that is contained in the symbol of faith, namely:

I believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen.

I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, one in Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he was born of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered, died, and was buried. On the third day he rose again in fulfillment of the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.

I believe in the one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

With firm faith I also believe everything contained in God's Word, written or handed down in tradition and proposed by the Church, whether in solemn judgment or in ordinary and universal magisterium, as divinely revealed and calling for faith.

I also firmly accept and hold each and every thing that is proposed by the Church definitively regarding teaching on faith and morals.

Moreover, I adhere with religious submission of will and intellect to the teachings which either the Roman Pontiff or the college of bishops enunciate when they exercise the authentic magisterium even if they proclaim those teachings in an act that is not definitive.

(signature of candidate, signature of ordinary or his delegate, date, place)

(for the Latin and Italian texts see ENCHRIDION VATICANUM, volume 11, Documenti Ufficiali della Santa Sede, 1988-1989, numeri 1191-1192)

Canon 380 - Before he takes canonical possession of his office, the person promoted [to the episcopacy] is to make a profession of faith and take an oath of fidelity to the Apostolic See in accord with a formula approved by the same Apostolic See.

...In addition, the obligation of taking a special "Oath of Fidelity" concerning the duties inherent in the office to be assumed, previously required only for bishops, has been extended to all the categories listed in canon 833, numbers 5-8. It became necessary, therefore, to prepare and provide appropriate texts for this purpose, updating the style and content so as to be more consonant with the teaching of the Second Vatican Council and subsequent documents...

The Latin formulas for the "Profession of Faith" and the "Oath of Fidelity" were approved by the Pope on July 1, 1988, and became effective on March 1, 1989.

Oath of Fidelity upon Assuming an Office to be Exercised in the Name of the Church

I, N.N., in assuming the office of deacon, promise that both in my words and in my conduct I shall always preserve communion with the Catholic Church.

I shall carry out with the greatest care and fidelity the duties incumbent on me toward both the universal Church and the particular Church in which, according to the provisions of the law, I have been called to exercise my service.

In fulfilling the charge entrusted to me in the name of the Church, I shall hold fast to the deposit of faith in its entirety, I shall faithfully hand it on and explain it, and I shall avoid any teachings opposed to that faith.

I shall follow and foster the common discipline of the whole Church and I shall observe all ecclesiastical laws, especially those which are contained in the Code of Canon Law.

In Christian obedience I shall unite myself with what is declared by the bishops as authentic doctors and teachers of the faith or established by them as those responsible for the governance of the Church; I shall also faithfully assist the diocesan bishops, in order that the apostolic activity exercised in the name and by the mandate of the Church may be carried out in the communion of the same Church.

So help me God, and God's holy Gospels, on which I place my hand.

(signature of candidate, signature of ordinary or his delegate, date, place)

(for the Latin and Italian texts see ENCHRIDION VATICANUM, volume 11, Documenti Ufficiali della Santa Sede, 1988-1989, numeri 1193-1194)