

SERVICES OF THE ORDER

Service for Admitting Members

The Service for admitting members should ideally take place during a church service.

Priest: Will all members of The Order of the Daughters of the Holy Cross and the candidate(s) come forward.

Presenter: Each member of The Order of the Daughters of the Holy Cross wears this cross, the symbol of the Order. Before each one takes her vow and receives her cross, we ask you to bless it.

Priest: *[turning to the altar and using the following or other appropriate blessing]*

Holy and gracious God, we ask you to bless each cross, that it may be an outward symbol to all who see it that the one who wears it has dedicated her life to you. Every day as she puts on her cross, may each woman be reminded of your faithful care and provision for her as your Daughter. We ask this through the mediation of your Son, who redeemed us by his sacrifice on the Holy Cross.

Presenter: I present to you *[name(s)]*, who *[has/have]* completed the period of study and discernment and desire(s) to become a member of The Order of the Daughters of the Holy Cross.

Priest: For three months you have studied, prayed, and searched the scriptures and your heart to confirm the call you received from Jesus to be admitted to this Order dedicated to Prayer, Service, Study and Evangelism. Do you believe you have been so called?

Candidate(s): I do.

Priest: Have you read, and do you affirm, the Faith Statement of the Order?

Candidates(s): I have read and affirm the Faith Statement.

Priest to each candidate individually: *[Name]*, will you live by the Rule of the Life of the Order and willingly take the fourfold Vow of Prayer, Service, Study and Evangelism?

Candidate: Yes, by the power of the Holy Spirit, I pledge faithful obedience to the Rule of Life of the Order and solemnly do undertake the Vow of Prayer, Service, Study and Evangelism.

Priest: Receive and wear the cross of the Order as an outward symbol of your vow.

Priest to Candidate(s): As a member of The Order of the Daughters of the Holy Cross, will you do everything in your power to promote harmony and to further the mission and ministry of the Order?

Candidate(s): I will with God's help.

Priest to Candidate(s): My sister(s), prayer is the foundation of all God's work. As you enter The Order of the Daughters of the Holy Cross, I thank you for the difference your prayers will make to how that work is done in this part of his Church. May you find joy and fulfillment as members of this Order, and may you be blessed as your life of Prayer, Service, Study and Evangelism blesses those whom God places in your path. Now with your sister, join in the Prayer of the Order.

All Daughters say the Prayer of The Order of the Daughters of the Holy Cross.

O gracious and Holy Father,
that thy Son may be glorified,
give thy Daughters
wisdom to perceive thee,
intelligence to understand thee,
diligence to seek thee,
patience to wait for thee,
eyes to behold thee,
a *heart* to meditate upon thee,
and a *life* to proclaim thee,
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.
Amen.

Priest to the congregation: Let us recognize [this/these] new member(s) of The Order of the Daughters of the Holy Cross.