

WELCOME TO A NEW POSTULANT

(To be used at a Local Group Meeting)

Sponsor, or Supporter

My Brothers and Sisters, I bring before you **N**, who wishes to become a Postulant.

Convenor **N**, on behalf of the Third Order of the Society of St Francis, I welcome you as a Postulant and encourage you to explore the Franciscan vocation. We assure you of our love and support. May the Lord make you an instrument of His peace

WELCOME TO A TERTIARY FROM ANOTHER AREA

Rite of Welcome to the Area for a Professed or Novice Tertiary from another Area

The Officiant is the Area Minister, or someone in the Area Team delegated the role by the Area Minister.

The Rite may take place immediately before the Peace, if celebrated within the Eucharist, or, if during the Third Order Office, immediately after the Cross Prayers

The Tertiary stands before the Officiant and those present gather around.. Where practical members of the Area may stand in a circle round the new Tertiary.

The Officiant says

God our Father, we thank you for sending your servant **N** to be amongst us during his/her Franciscan journey We pray that he/she will find great blessing within this part of the Franciscan family. We also pray that he/she will be, as an instrument of peace, a source of blessing not only to us all but also to those with whom he/she comes into contact in daily life. Hear our prayer, Father, as we welcome **N** into our Area.

All **As you join us here, we pray that you may find among us the true love, joy, and peace of God**

Tertiary May I find that love, joy and peace and be an instrument of blessing to you and to others.

All **As you seek the will of God among us, may our Heavenly Father reveal to you the riches of his Grace, sufficient for all your needs.**

Tertiary May I find those true riches as I work out my Franciscan vocation within this Area

All **As you continue to grow in your faith and your vocation, may you discern the face of Jesus in the poor the destitute the unloved and the marginalised and be a source of love for them.**

Tertiary May God fill my heart with his overflowing love and compassion, to the praise of His glory and the well-being of all.

Officiant Let us then silently offer our prayers to God and ask His blessing upon our newly arrived (brother) (sister) whom we now welcome into the Area.

A short time of silence is kept during which the Tertiary kneels. All members of the Area stretch out their right hands over the Tertiary as the Officiant says.

We welcome you into our life and fellowship
May our Blessed Lady pray for you;
May St Francis, St Clare
and all Franciscan saints pray for you;
May the holy angels befriend and protect you,
And I will pronounce upon you the blessing
which our holy father Francis gave
to Brother Leo his companion:
The Lord bless you and keep you:
The Lord make his face shine upon you
and be gracious to you:
The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you
and give you his peace.
My brother(s)/(and) sister(s), the Lord bless you. Amen.

PRAYING A FAREWELL

This may be used when anyone is departing from a Local Group or Area or, indeed, the Third Order itself. It may be adapted according to circumstances. To symbolise unending love those present may stand in a circle.

The Officiant may be chosen by the gathering concerned.

Officiant God is our beginnings and endings.
We celebrate all we have shared with **N** and ask your blessing as he/she/they continue on the journey. May the love which is in our hearts be a bond that unites us for ever wherever we may be.
May the power of your presence
bless this moment of our leave taking,
This we ask through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. **Amen.**

Then may follow this Psalmody or some other

- 1. You, O God will guard us from all evil:
you will protect our lives.**
- 2. You will protect our going out and out coming in:
both now and for ever.**
- 3. Where can I flee from your Spirit?:**

or where can I flee from your presence?

**4. If I climb to heaven you are there:
if I lie in the grave you are there also.**

**5. If I take the wings of the morning:
and dwell in the depths of the sea.**

**6. Even there your hand shall lead me:
your hand shall hold me fast.**

From Psalms 121 and 139

Any of the following readings may be used

I thank my God, every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel. And this is my prayer, that love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ we may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God. *Philippians 1.3,4,9.*

Exodus.13. 21-22 John 3.5-8 John 16.21-24 2 Cor 4.7-9

The gathering

As you journey on, we ask forgiveness where we have failed you. We give thanks for all you have given us. We assure you of our love and prayers.

Those leaving

As (I) (we) leave, I ask forgiveness where I have failed you.
I give thanks for all you have given to me.
I assure you of my love and prayers.

The gathering

We pray that you may also experience As you experience the pain of change and the insecurity of moving on the blessing of new growth.

Those leaving

I know that God goes with me.

The gathering

As you meet the poor, the pained and the stranger in the Way we pray that you may see in each one the face of Christ.

Those leaving

I know that God goes with me.

The gathering

As you walk through the good times and the bad we pray that you may never lose sight of the shelter of God's loving arms.

Those leaving

I know that God goes with me.

The gathering

As you ponder over your decisions and wonder over the fruits of your choice we pray that the peace of Christ may reign in your heart.

Those leaving

I know that God goes with me.

Officiant We praise and thank you, God of the journey,
for **N** who is soon to leave us.
We entrust him/her into your loving care
knowing that you are always the faithful traveller
and companion on the Way.
Shelter and protect them from all harm and anxiety
Grant them the courage to meet the future,
and grace to let go into new life .
through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen**

Then each person present may make the sign of the Cross on the forehead of those leaving saying

Go in peace, for our God goes with you.

The kiss of peace may be exchanged.

THE BLESSING OF A NEW MINISTRY

To be used for the beginning of ministry as an Area Minister, Area Formation Guardian, Area Novice Guardian, Local Group Convenor, or on any other suitable occasion.

The Rite may be used in the Eucharist after the Gospel, before Professions, Renewals and Novicings. or in the Third Order Office after the Cross Prayers and before Novicings or if necessary at some other point in the above services, or on its own.

The Officiant will normally be the Area Minister, but may be another member of the Area Team, delegated the task.

Officiant We are gathered here to welcome and ask for God's blessing on **N** who has been chosen to serve as _____ amongst us

The candidate comes forward and is addressed by the Officiant.

Officiant **N** in the presence of this gathering do you commit yourself to this trust and responsibility?

Office Holder I do.

Officiant Will you guard those put in your care, nurture them in the faith and by your life and example proclaim the living word among them, after the spirit of the blessed Francis?

Office Holder I will, God being my helper.

Officiant Will you see that the Rule of the Third Order is maintained with love, patience and understanding ?

Office Holder I will, God being my helper.

Officiant Brothers and Sisters will you love and support **N** in this his/her ministry?

All We will

Officiant Let us silently offer our prayers to God
and ask his blessing on **N**.

The candidate kneels before the Officiant, or bows in prayer and a period of silence is observed. The Officiant then invites those present to stretch out their right hands over the office holder as the Officiant says

Officiant May our blessed Lady pray for you
May St Francis St Clare and all Franciscan saints
pray for you
May the holy angels befriend and protect you
And I will pronounce upon you the blessing
which our holy father Francis
gave to brother Leo his companion

The Lord bless you and keep you:
The Lord make his face shine upon you
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The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you
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My brother(s)/(and) sister(s), the Lord bless you. Amen.