

THE ANGELIC WARFARE CONFRATERNITY



CEREMONY OF SOLEMN RECEPTION



CEREMONY OF SOLEMN RECEPTION INTO THE ANGELIC WARFARE CONFRATERNITY

This ceremony may be presided over by any Dominican priest, or any other priest who has first received the faculty to do so from the promoter of the Confraternity. After the candidates have gathered in a church, or another suitable place, all stand as the priest, vested in surplice (or cappa of the Order of Preachers) and white stole, processes to an appropriate place in the church while a hymn is sung.

HYMN

Come, Holy Ghost, Creator blest,
And in our hearts take up Thy rest;
Come with Thy grace and heav'nly aid
To fill our hearts which Thou hast made.

O Comforter, to Thee we cry,
Thou heav'nly gift of God most high;
Thou fount of life, and fire of love,
And sweet anointing from above.

To ev'ry sense Thy light impart
And shed Thy love in ev'ry heart.
To our weak flesh, Thy strength supply;
Unfailing courage from on high.

Praise be to Thee, Father and Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in one;
And may the Son on us bestow
The gifts that from the Spirit flow.

OPENING PRAYER

Priest: Send forth thy Spirit and they shall be created.

All: **And thou shalt renew the face of the earth.**

Priest: Let us pray. O God, who didst instruct the hearts of thy faithful by the light of thy Holy Spirit, grant us by the same Spirit to be truly wise and to ever rejoice in his consolation. Through Christ Our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

PRIEST'S INSTRUCTION

If appropriate, the priest may give a short instruction on the nature, obligations, and spiritual benefits of the Confraternity. All sit for the priest's words of instruction.

CANDIDATES' DECLARATION OF INTENT

After the priest's instruction, all stand, and the candidates and respond together as the priest questions them.

Priest: Are you determined to observe faithfully the obligations of the Angelic Warfare Confraternity?

All: **I am, with God's help.**

Priest: Are you resolved to guard holy purity, to seek the Truth, to cherish Our Lady of the Rosary, and to honor St. Thomas Aquinas as your patron?

All: **I am, with God's help.**

PRAYERS FOR PURITY

All kneel as the priest leads the candidates in prayer:

Priest: Following the example of St. Thomas, let us humbly pray to Christ for the grace of purity.

All: Dear Jesus, I know that every perfect gift and especially that of chastity depends on the power of your Providence. Without you, a mere creature can do nothing. Therefore, I beg you to defend by your grace the chastity and purity of my body and soul. And if I have ever imagined or sensed anything that can stain my chastity and purity, blot it out, supreme Lord of my powers, that I may advance with a pure heart in your love and service, offering myself on the most pure altar of your divinity, all the days of my life. Amen.

Priest: Let us together invoke the intercession of St. Thomas.

All: Chosen lily of innocence, pure St. Thomas, who kept chaste the robe of baptism, and became an angel in the flesh after being girded by two angels, I implore you to commend me to Jesus, the Spotless Lamb, and to Mary, Queen of Virgins. Gentle Protector of my purity, ask them that I who wear the holy sign of your victory over the flesh may also share your purity and that after imitating you on earth, I may at last come to be crowned with you among the angels. Amen.

Then the priest and the candidates together pray one Our Father, one Hail Mary, and one Glory Be to the Father.

The priest concludes the prayers, saying:

Priest: Pray for us St. Thomas

All: **That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.**

Priest: Let us pray. O God, who mercifully helps those engaged in the fierce struggle for chastity, by means of the sacred cord of St. Thomas, grant to us who implore your help through his intercession that we may successfully overcome the temptations of body and soul and come to be crowned with perpetual purity and integrity among the choirs of angels, where we will receive the reward of eternal happiness. Through Christ Our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

BLESSING OF THE CORD

The priest blesses the cords (or medals) with the following formula, adapting his words accordingly.

Priest: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

All: **Who made heaven and earth.**

Priest: The Lord be with you

All: **And with your spirit.**

Priest: Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, lover and guardian of purity, we implore your great mercy, that as you preserved St. Thomas Aquinas from stain of body and soul by girding him with a cord of chastity through the ministry of the Angels, you may

deign to ✠ bless and sanctify ✠ these cords (medals) to your honor and glory, so that whoever reverently

[if cords]: carries and wears them around his waist

[if medals]: bears and wears them

may be purified from all uncleanness of mind and body and may merit to be presented worthily to you by the hands of the Angels in his passing from this life. You who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

All: Amen.

The priest sprinkles the cords and medals with holy water.

RECEPTION OF THE CORD OF ST. THOMAS

After blessing the cords, the priest addresses the candidates together:

Priest: May the Lord gird you with the cincture of purity, and by the merits of St. Thomas Aquinas, extinguish within you every evil desire that you may remain wholly integrated and chaste until death.

All: Amen.

The priest then gives a cord, or medal, to each candidate. As each candidate receives the cord or medal, the candidate says quietly:

May the Lord gird me with the cincture of purity; and by the merits of St. Thomas Aquinas extinguish within me every evil desire, that I may remain wholly integrated and chaste until death. Amen.

After all have received the cords and/or medals, the priest addresses them:

Priest: By the authority conceded to me, I receive you and enroll you into the Confraternity of the Angelic Warfare and make you sharers in all the graces, indulgences, privileges, and spiritual benefits of the said Confraternity. In the name of the Father, ✠ and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER

Priest: Let us bless the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

All: Let us praise and exalt Him above all forever.

Priest: Let us pray. O God, whose mercies are without number, and the treasure of whose goodness is infinite, we render thanks to your most gracious majesty for the gifts you have bestowed on us, evermore asking your mercy, that as you grant petitions to those who ask you, you will never forsake them, but will prepare them for the rewards to come. Through Christ Our Lord.

All: Amen.

THE INSCRIPTION OF NAMES IN THE REGISTER

In order for the reception to be valid, the priest (if he is the director of the Confraternity) must inscribe the names of the new members into the Register of the Confraternity. If the priest is not the director, then he must immediately send the names of the candidates to the director, using the form below.



ANGELIC WARFARE CONFRATERNITY

ENROLLMENT FORM

I have received my cord/medal and was received into the Confraternity through the Rite of Solemn Reception. Please record my name on the register of the Angelic Warfare Confraternity.

Name _____

Signature _____

Email: _____

Date & church/city of reception _____

Received by (name of priest) _____

In order to complete your enrollment into the Confraternity return this form to the director of the Confraternity:

Send a scan/photo to: director@angelicwarfare.org

Or copy and mail to: The Angelic Warfare Confraternity
St. Thomas Aquinas Priory
1 Cunningham Square
Providence, RI 02918