

26. Ceremony of Conferral of the Holy Medal of the Blessed and Immaculate Virgin Mary Commonly known as the “Miraculous Medal”

When the people have gathered, the celebrant enters during the singing of a hymn suited to the particular celebration.

After the singing, the celebrant says:

Celebrant: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All (Make the sign of the Cross and reply): Amen.

The celebrant greets those present in the following or other suitable words, taken mainly from Sacred Scripture.

Celebrant: Through the Son, born of Mary, every blessing comes to us from God our Father. May His grace and peace be with you all.

All: And also with you.

Celebrant: God uses ordinary things as signs to express his extraordinary mercy toward us. Through simple things as well we express our gratitude, declare our willingness to serve God, and profess the resolve to live up to our baptismal consecration. This medal is a sign of entrance into the Association of the Blessed and Immaculate Virgin Mary, approved by the Church. The medal thus expresses our intention of sharing in the spirit of this Association. That intention renews our baptismal resolve to put on Christ with the help of Mary, whose own greatest desire is that we become more like Christ, in praise of the Trinity, until, dressed for the wedding feast, we reach our home in Heaven.

Reading of the Word of God

A reader, one of those present or the celebrant, reads a text of Sacred Scripture, taken preferably from the reading in the Lectionary for Mass for the mysteries of Mary. The text chosen may also be one of those particularly related to the spirit of the Association.

1. Revelation 11:19a; 12:1, 5, 14-17. “A great sign appeared in the heavens.” God’s temple in heaven opened...

2. John 2:1-11. “The first of the signs given by Jesus was at Cana in Galilee.” There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee...

After the reading, the celebrant gives a homily in which he explains to those present the meaning of this celebration.

Intercessions

The intercessions are then said. From the following intercessions the celebrant may choose those which seem best suited to the occasion, or may add others which address the particular needs of the faithful.

Celebrant: Because the Medal of the Immaculate Conception is rightly considered to be a pre-eminent sign of our devotion to the Virgin Mary, let us call upon the Name of the Lord through the intercession of this Blessed Virgin:

All: Through Mary, O Lord, join us more closely to Christ.

Celebrant: Most compassionate Father, through the redemptive merits of your only begotten Son you preserved your mother Mary beforehand from all stain of sin; keep us free from sin.

All: Through Mary, O Lord, join us more closely to Christ.

Celebrant: When Mary consented to your word, you chose her as the companion of the Redeemer; grant through the intercession of this Blessed Virgin that your Church may abound in the fruits of Christ's redemption.

All: Through Mary, O Lord, join us more closely to Christ.

Celebrant: You joined the Virgin Mary to your Son in a close and unbreakable bond and showered her with the fullness of your grace; grant that we may always find her to be our advocate, pleading for the graces we need.

All: Through Mary, O Lord, join us more closely to Christ.

Celebrant: In the Virgin Mary you have provided us with the perfect example of following Christ; help us to strive to reflect in our lives the mysteries of our salvation

All: Through Mary, O Lord, join us more closely to Christ.

Celebrant: You taught the Virgin Mary to keep all your words in her heart; grant that, by following her example, we may hold fast to the words of your Son in faith and carry them out in our lives.

All: Through Mary, O Lord, join us more closely to Christ.

Celebrant: You gave the Holy Spirit to your Apostles as they were at prayer with Mary, the Mother of Jesus; grant that, persevering in prayer, we may walk in the spirit even as we live in the spirit.

All: Through Mary, O Lord, join us more closely to Christ.

Prayer of Blessing

With hands outstretched, the celebrant continues:

Celebrant: O God, the author and perfecter of all holiness, you call all who are reborn of water and the Holy Spirit to the fullness of the Christian life and the perfection of charity. Look with kindness on those who devoutly receive this medal in honor of the Blessed and Immaculate Virgin Mary. As long as they live, let them become sharers in the image of Christ your Son, and, after they have fulfilled their mission on earth with the help of Mary, the Virgin Mother, receive them into the joy of your heavenly home. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Or (the following is adapted from Collection Rituum)

Celebrant: Almighty and merciful God, in virtue of the many apparitions on earth of the Immaculate Virgin Mary, it has pleased You to work miracles again and again for our salvation. Kindly pour out Your blessing † upon this medal (these medals). May all who piously reverence it (them) and devoutly wear it (them) experience the patronage of Mary Immaculate and obtain mercy from you through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Conferral of the Medal

The celebrant puts the medal on each of the candidates, saying:

Celebrant: Receive this medal as the sign of your acceptance into the Association of the Blessed and Immaculate Virgin Mary. Live in such a way that, with the help of the Mother of God, you may more and more put on Christ and manifest Christ living in you, for the glory of the Trinity, and for the service of the Church and your neighbor.

All: Amen.

Or (adapted from Collection Rituum):

Celebrant: Receive this holy medal; wear it in faith, and handle it with suitable devotion. May the most holy and Immaculate Queen of Heaven protect and defend you. She is ever ready to renew her wondrous acts of kindness. May her intercession obtain for you whatever you humbly ask of God. Both in life and death may you rest securely in her motherly arms.

All: Amen.

As circumstances suggest, the celebrant may, in a clear voice, pronounce the formulas of conferral once for all the recipients. They all join in replying Amen, then go one by one to receive the medal from the celebrant. The celebrant, in silence, sprinkles all present with holy water.

Concluding Rite

The celebrant continues the rite, saying:

Celebrant: God through the Immaculate Virgin Mary, so inexpressibly united with your Son, you cause us to rejoice in your great goodness. As we are supported by her motherly protection, may we never be without your providential love, and be always dedicated to the mystery of your redemption with unbounded faith. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

It is preferable to end the celebration with a suitable song.

(Except as indicated, Rite translated from Latin text approved by the Office of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, September 14, 1990. Permission to reprint granted by Rev. Charles F. Shelby, C.M., director of the Association of the Miraculous Medal, Perryville, Missouri.)