

# Profession of Perpetual Vows

RELIGIOUS SISTERS OF MERCY OF ALMA, MICHIGAN CATHEDRAL OF MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION Cathedral of Mary of the Assumption

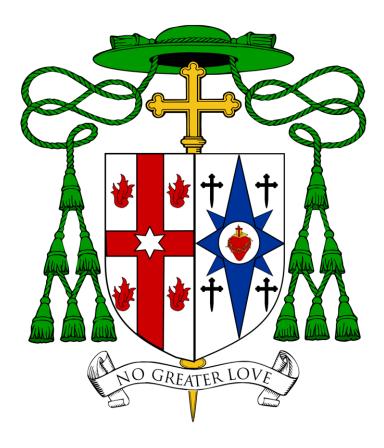
Religious Sisters of Mercy of Alma, Michigan

# RITUAL MASS For the Profession of Perpetual Vows

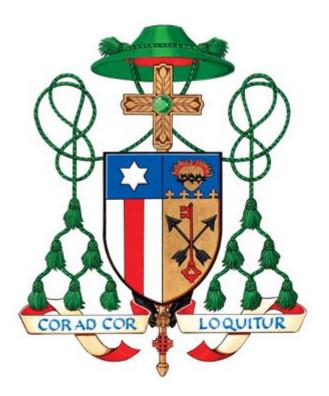
## Monday, August 16, 2021

#### 10:30 am

Saginaw, Michigan



# Most Reverend Robert D. Gruss Bishop of Saginaw



# PRINCIPLE CELEBRANT

## AND

# HOMILIST

# Most Reverend James D. Conley Bishop of Lincoln

# His Eminence Justin Cardinal Rigali In Choir

#### CONCELEBRANTS

Most Reverend Richard Stika Bishop of Knoxville, Tennessee

Most Reverend Carl F. Mengeling Bishop Emeritus of Lansing, Michigan

and

Priests who are Friends of the Sisters Professing Perpetual Vows

#### SISTERS PROFESSING VOWS

Followed by the ring motto chosen by the Sister, and engraved inside her profession ring

Sister Miriam Fidelis Reed, RSM I know My own

Sister Maria Crucis Garcia, RSM Confidence

Sister Andrea Marie Lee, RSM Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Sister Maria Juan Anderson, RSM The One Who Showed Mercy (Lk 10:37)

Sister Brigid Mary Meeks, RSM Quoniam Voluit Me

#### READERS

Mother Mary Quentin Sheridan, RSM Sister Mary Nika Schaumber, RSM

#### CANTORS

Sister Mary Rafqa Boulos, RSM Sister Mary Dolora Keating, RSM Schola of the Religious Sisters of Mercy

> ORGANIST Jeremy Paul Jelinek

STRINGS Sister Gianna Marie Savidge, RSM Sister Karoline Marie To, RSM Sister Mary Edge Sister Anne Savidge

#### PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

Mothers of the Sisters

## PRELUDE: Be Thou my Vision

The Sisters professing Perpetual Vows participate in the entrance procession. The Sisters who will profess their Perpetual Vows carry a lighted candle in the Entrance procession. This candle symbolizes that the Perpetual Vows they publicly profess within the Holy Mass are rooted in their baptismal promises.

At Baptism, they received a candle that was lit from the flame of the Paschal Candle, symbolizing the Light of Christ which overcomes the darkness of sin and death. While in Baptism they receive new life in Christ, in Religious Profession they freely respond to the invitation from Christ to follow Him more closely. The Profession candle that the Sisters carry indicates their free self gift within the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN **Vení Sponsa Chrístí** Henri Clemens, SMM Chanted by a Scola of the

**Religious Sisters of Mercy** 

Veni sponsa Christi, accipe coronam quam tibi Dominus praeparavit in aeternum.

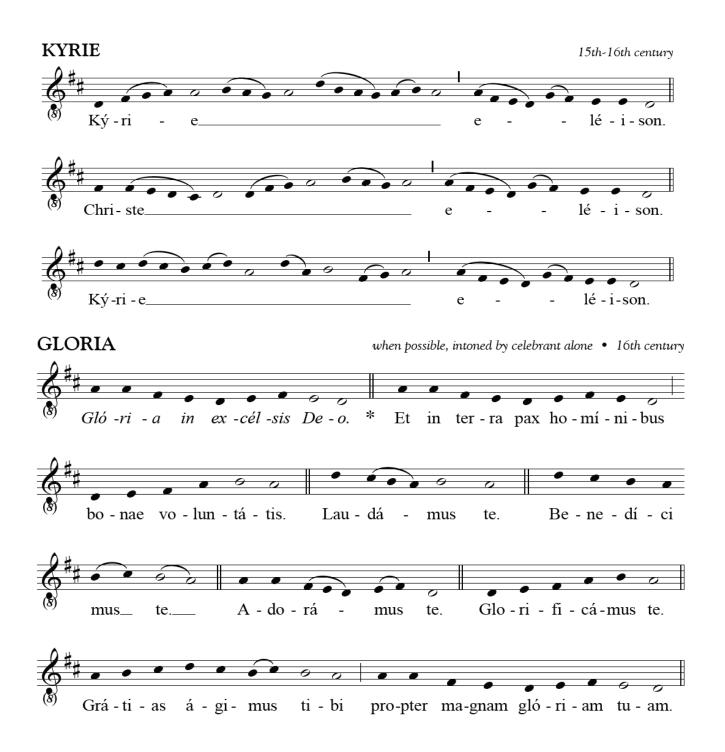
Come, bride of Christ, receive the crown which the Lord has prepared for you for all eternity.



#### **ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

I rejoiced when they said to me: Let us go to the house of the Lord. Now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem. Alleluia.

#### PENITENTIAL RITE



Gloria continued



#### COLLECT

O God, who willed that the grace of Baptism should flourish in these your servants, so that they might strive to follow more closely in the footsteps of your Son, grant, we pray, that, constantly seeking evangelical perfection, they may add to the holiness of your Church and increase her apostolic zeal. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever

#### R. Amen.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

#### First Reading

A reading from the Song of Songs

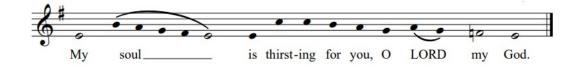
Stern as death is love.

3:6-7

Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal on your arm; For love is strong as Death, longing is fierce as Sheol. Its arrows are arrows of fire, flames of the divine. Deep waters cannot quench love, nor rivers sweep it away. Were one to offer all the wealth of his house for love, He would be utterly despised.

The Word of the Lord

R. Thanks be to God.



#### Second Reading

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians (	Col 3: 14
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If then you were raised with Christ, seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Think of what is above, not of what is on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ your life appears, then you too will appear with Him in glory.

The Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing.

#### A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 16: 24-27

Then Jesus said to His disciples, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? Or what can one give in exchange for his life? For the Son of Man will come with His angels in His Father's glory, and then He will repay everyone according to his conduct."

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

John 15:5

#### CALLING BY NAME AND REQUEST

After the Gospel, the celebrant and the congregation are seated; those to profess Perpetual Vows remain standing. The Superior General takes her place in front of the sanctuary and calls by name each Sister who will profess Perpetual Vows.

The Sisters respond by stating: Present.

The Sisters proceed to the sanctuary. They stand, facing the Superior General, and say:

With the help of God's grace, I (Sister 'N' - pronounced in order), have come to know more deeply the love of Christ and to desire a life completely dedicated to Him, a life based upon the little virtues, which express our legacy of union and charity and impel us into a spirituality of communion.

Mother Mary McGreevy, I now ask to be allowed to make perpetual profession in this Institute of the Religious Sisters of Mercy of Alma, Michigan, for the glory of God and the service of the Church.

The Superior General and the members of the religious community reply: Thanks be to God.

The Superior General and the Sisters return to their places.

HOMILY



#### EXAMINATION

The Superior General stands at the front of the sanctuary. The Sisters who will profess Perpetual Vows approach the sanctuary and stand facing the Superior General.

The congregation stands. The Superior General examines the Sisters by asking the following questions:

Dear Sisters, you have been made in the image and likeness of God, restored to supernatural life in baptism, chosen by the initiative of the Father, and set aside for His service by cooperation with this initiative. Are you now determined to unite yourselves more closely to Him by the bond of perpetual profession?

The Sisters respond together: I am.

The Superior General asks: Are you resolved, with the help of God, to undertake that life of perfect chastity, obedience, poverty and service chosen first by Christ our Lord and His Virgin Mother for themselves, and are you resolved to persevere in it forever?

The Sisters respond together: I am.

The Superior General asks: Are you resolved to strive steadfastly for perfection in the love of God by your joyous dedication to the common life, willingness to serve the needs of your Sisters and of the Church, and faithful observance of the Constitutions of this Religious Institute?

The Sisters respond together: I am.

The Superior General concludes the examination by confirming the intention of those to profess Perpetual Vows with these words:

May God, who has begun the good work in you, bring it to fulfillment before the day of Christ Jesus.

All respond: Amen.

## LITANY OF THE SAINTS

#### All rise. The Celebrant stands and with hands joined says:

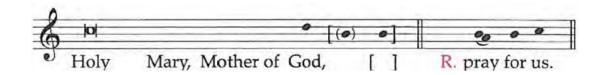
Dear friends in Christ, let us pray to God the almighty Father for these servants of His whom He has called to follow Christ in the religious life; in His love may He bless them with His grace and strengthen them in their holy purpose.

The Sisters professing vows prostrate before the altar during the chanting of the Litany of the Saints.

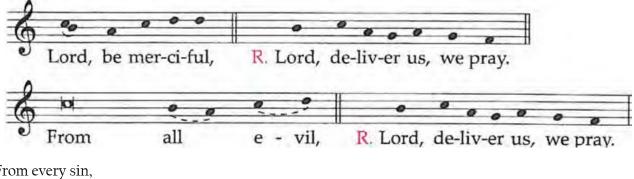
The congregation kneels.



God our Father in heaven, have mercy on us. God the Son, our Redeemer, have mercy on us. God the Holy Spirit, have mercy on us. Holy Trinity, one God, have mercy on us.



Saint Michael. Saint Vincent de Paul, Holy Angels of God, Saint Francis de Sales, Saint John the Baptist, Saint Francis Xavier Saint Joseph, Saint Camillus, de Lillis, Saint Ann and Saint Joachim, Saint Ignatius of Loyola, Saints Simeon and Anna Saint Maximillian Kolbe. Saint Peter and Saint Paul, Saint Francis de Sales, Saint John, Saint Alphonsus, Saint Anthony of Padua, Saint Stephen, Saint Lawrence, Saint John Vianney, Saint Joseph Calasanz, Saint Mary Magdalene, Saint Paul VI, Saints Cyril and Methodius, Saints Perpetua and Felicity, Saint John Paul II, Saint Monica. Saint Agnes, Saint Augustine, Saint Mechtild Saint Thomas Aquinas, Saint Teresa of Avila Saint Bernard, of Clairvaux, Saint Vincent de Paul. Saint Benedict. Saint John Henry Newman, Saint Anthony, Saint Brigid, Saint Gregory the Great Saint Clare. Saint Patrick, Saint Angela Merici, Saint Columba. Saint Elizabeth of Hungary Saint Boniface, Saint Rita of Cascia, Saint Catherine of Genoa, Saint Francis and Saint Dominic, Saint John of God, Saint Catherine of Siena. Saint Juan Diego, Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Saint Thomas More, Saint Therese of Lisieux, Saint Thomas Villanova. Saint Bernadette,, Saint John of the Cross, Saint Elizabeth of the Trinity, Saint Theresa Benedicta of the Cross, Saint Andrew Kim, All holy men and women Saints of God—



From every sin, From everlasting death, By your coming as man, By your death and resurrection. By Your gift of the Holy Spirit,

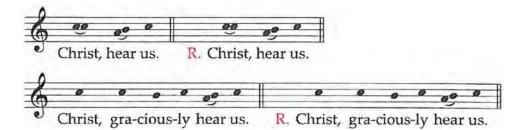


Give our Holy Father Francis, and all the Cardinals and Bishops of the Church, an evergreater disposition for the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Bless all priests with wisdom and courage; make them the instruments of your love, as they minister to your people *in persona Christi*.

Consecrate these Sisters in your service, conform them to your image, and keep them faithful unto death.

Jesus, Son of the living God -



Then, the Celebrant says, with hands joined:

Lord,

grant the prayers of Your people.

Prepare the hearts of Your servants for consecration to Your service.

By the grace of the Holy Spirit purify them from all sin

and set them on fire with Your love.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

#### R. Amen.

#### All stand.

#### PROFESSION OF RELIGIOUS VOWS

After the Litany of the Saints, the Superior General takes her place in front of the sanctuary. One at a time, each Sister comes forward, kneels facing the Superior General, and professes her Vows, reading from her hand-written formulary.

The Superior General responds to each Sister: N., I accept your vows.

The Sister and the Superior General approach the altar and sign the vow formulary upon the altar. After signing her vows, each Sister returns to her place. The Superior General returns to her place after all of the Sisters have professed and signed their vows.

#### ACT OF RELIGIOUS PROFESSION

In the Name of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and under the protection of His Immaculate Mother, Mary ever Virgin, I, \_\_\_\_\_\_, called in Religion \_\_\_\_\_\_, do Vow to Almighty God, Poverty, Chastity, and Obedience, and the Service of the Poor, Sick, and Ignorant, and to persevere faithfully until death in this Institute of the Religious Sisters of Mercy of Alma, Michigan, according to its Constitutions. I call upon this Mercy Institute and you, Mother Mary McGreevy, RSM, Superior General of the Institute of the Religious Sisters of Mercy, to accept these vows and to confirm me in the truth of this act, on this sixteenth day of August in the year of Our Lord 2021.

Signed	In Religion _	
Superior General		
Witness	Witness	



#### SOLEMN PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

The Sisters who have professed Perpetual Vows return to the sanctuary and kneel before the altar. The Celebrant moves to the front of the altar, and with hands extended over the Sisters prays the solemn prayer of consecration:

Father in heaven, our desire to serve you is itself your gift and our perseverance needs your guiding hand. How right it is that we should sing your praise.

With boundless love you created the human family through your Word, in the Holy Spirit, and lifted it up into communion with yourself; you make the human family your bride radiant with the gift of everlasting life. When your bride, deceived by the evil one, broke faith with you, you did not abandon her. With everlasting love you renewed with your servant Noah the covenant you made with Adam.

Then you chose Abraham, the man of faith, to be the father of a people more numerous than the stars of heaven. By the hand of Moses you sealed a covenant with them in the tables of the law. Throughout the ages there arose from this favored people holy women renowned for devotion and courage, justice and faith. In the fullness of time you raised up the Holy Virgin from the stock of Jesse. The Holy Spirit was to come upon her, and your power was to overshadow her, making her the Immaculate Mother of the world's Redeemer. He became poor, humble, and obedient, the source and pattern of all holiness. He formed the Church into His bride, loving it with love so great that He gave Himself up for it and sanctified it in His blood. Father, in Your loving wisdom you have singled out many of your daughters to be disciples espoused to Christ and to receive the honor of His love. Holy Church shines with their rich variety, a bride adorned with jewels, a queen robed in grace, a mother rejoicing in her children. Father, we earnestly pray to you: send the fire of the Holy Spirit into the hearts of your daughters to keep alive within them the holy desire He has given them.

Lord, may the glory of baptism and holiness of life shine in their hearts. Strengthened by the vows of their consecration, may they be always one with you in loving fidelity to Christ, their only Bridegroom. May they cherish the Church as their mother and love the whole world as God's creation, teaching all people to look forward in joy and hope to the good things of heaven. Lord, holy Father, guide the steps of your servants on their pilgrimage through life. When they come at last to the throne of Christ the King; may they not fear Him as their judge, but hear the voice of their Bridegroom lovingly inviting them to the wedding feast of heaven.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

#### PRESENTATION OF THE RINGS

After the blessing of the Professed, the Celebrant and the people sit. The newly professed rise and come to the Superior General, who moves to the front of the sanctuary. Then the newly professed kneel.

The Superior General places the ring signifying Religious Profession on the finger of each

Sister, as she says:

Receive this ring, for you are betrothed to the eternal King; keep faith with your Bridegroom so that you may come to the wedding feast of eternal joy.

The professed reply: Amen.

#### STATEMENT OF ADMISSION

The Superior General addresses the newly professed Sisters with the following statement of admission:

We confirm that you are now one with us as members of this Religious Institute of the Religious Sisters of Mercy of Alma, Michigan, sharing all things in common with us now and in the future. Be faithful to the service the Church entrusts to you to be carried out in her name.

#### The members of the Religious Sisters of Mercy manifest their assent by saying: Amen.

As the Community sings the *Suscipe*, the Sisters who have professed Perpetual Vows extend the sign of peace, according to the custom of the Community: to the Celebrant, the Superior General, the Vicar General and the Mother General Emerita.

#### Suscipe of Venerable Mother Catherine McAuley

My God, I am Thine for time and eternity, teach me to cast myself entirely into the arms of Thy loving Providence with the most lively, unlimited confidence in Thy compassionate, tender pity. Grant me, O most Merciful Redeemer, that whatever Thou dost ordain or permit may be acceptable to me. Take from my heart all painful anxiety, suffer nothing to sadden me but sin, nothing to delight me but the hope of coming to the possession of Thee, my God and my all, In Thine everlasting Kingdom. Amen.

#### OFFERTORY HYMN

"Come Down O Love Divine"



O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn To dust and ashes in Its heat consuming; And let thy glorious light shine ever on my sight, And clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

3.

Let holy charity My outward vesture be, And lowliness become my inner clothing; True lowliness of heart which takes the humbler part, And on its all pride of spirit looks with loathing.

4. And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long, Shall far outpass the power of human telling; For none can guess its grace, till they become the place Wherein the Holy Spirit makes His dwelling.

*Come Down*, *O Love Divine*" is a 14th-century hymn written By Bianco da Siena.

#### PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Receive the gifts and intentions of your servants, O Lord, and confirm in your love those who profess the evangelical counsels, Through Christ our Lord.



#### **SANCTUS**



#### MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION



#### AMEN

#### OUR FATHER

#### AGNUS DEI



#### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Gal 2:19-20

I am crucified with Christ, yet I live, no longer I, but Christ lives in me.

#### GUIDELINES FOR RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION

#### For Catholics

As Catholics, we fully participate in the celebration of the Eucharist when we receive Holy Communion. We are encouraged to receive Communion devoutly and frequently. In order to be properly disposed to receive Communion, participants should not be conscious of grave sin and normally should have fasted for one hour. A person who is conscious of grave sin is not to receive the Body and Blood of the Lord without prior sacramental confession except for a grave reason where there is no opportunity for confession. In this case, the person is to be mindful of the obligation to make an act of perfect contrition, including the intention of confessing as soon as possible (canon 916). A frequent reception of the Sacrament of Penance is encouraged for all.

#### For our fellow Christians

We welcome our fellow Christians to this celebration of the Eucharist as our brothers and sisters. We pray that our common baptism and the action of the Holy Spirit in this Eucharist will draw us closer to one another and begin to dispel the sad divisions which separate us. We pray that these will lessen and finally disappear, in keeping with Christ's prayer for us "that they may all be one" (Jn 17:21).

Because Catholics believe that the celebration of the Eucharist is a sign of the reality of the oneness of faith, life, and worship, members of those churches with whom we are not yet fully united are ordinarily not admitted to Holy Communion. Eucharistic sharing in exceptional circumstances by other Christians requires permission according to the directives of the diocesan bishop and the provisions of canon law (canon 844 \$4). Members of the Orthodox Churches, the Assyrian Church of the East, and the Polish National Catholic Church are urged to respect the discipline of their own Churches. According to Roman Catholic discipline, the Code of Canon Law does not object to the reception of Communion by Christians of these Churches (canon 844 \$3).

#### For those not receiving Holy Communion

All who are not receiving Holy Communion are encouraged to express in their hearts a prayerful desire for unity with the Lord Jesus and with one another.

#### For non-Christians

We also welcome to this celebration those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ. While we cannot admit them to Holy Communion, we ask them to offer their prayers for the peace and the unity of the human family.

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# Communion Hymn Clothe Yourself with Joy and Gladness

Johann Cruger, Johann Frank

Clothe yourself with joy and gladness, Leave behind all tears and sadness. Christ the light and joy will enter, He our Spirit and center. At this table He will feed us, thus to heaven He will lead us. It is God who here invites us. And unto Himself unites us.

#### He who eats this bread shall never

Dwell in death but live forever. So in joy your praise we render You will raise us up in splendor. Bread and wine our gifts so lowly, Through His Blood and Body our Living Lord, we offer our thanksgiving.

#### Hasten then, my soul to meet Him.

Eagerly and gladly greet Him. Let the daylight shine upon you. Put your wedding garment on you. Jesus, source of life and pleasure, Truest friend and dearest treasure, For your gifts we ever bless you And forever we confess you.

#### Post Communion Hymns Dr. MeeAe Cecelia Nam

Professor of Voice & Coordinator of Vocal Studies Eastern Michigan University

#### At this our Solemn Feast



#### 2.

Remember we that eve When, the last supper spread, Christ, as we all believe, The lamb with leav'nless bread Among his brethren shared And thus the Law obeyed, Of old unto their sires declared.

#### 3.

The typic lamb consumed, The legal feast complete, The Lord unto the Twelve His Body gave to eat; The whole to all, no less The whole to each, did mete With His own hands, as we confess.

#### 4.

He gave them , weak and frail, His Flesh their food to be; On them, downcast and sad, His Blood bestowed He: And thus to them He spake: "Receive this cup from Me, And all of you of this partake."

#### 5.

So He this sacrifice To institute did will, And charged His priests alone That office to fulfill: In them He did confide, To whom pertaineth still To take, and to the rest divide.

#### 6.

This angels' Bread is made The Bread of man today: The Living Bread from heav'n With figures doth away: O wondrous gift indeed! The poor and lowly may Upon their Lord and Master feed.

#### 7.

Thee therefore we implore, O Godhead One in Three, So may'st Thou visit us As we now worship Thee; And lead us on Thy way, That we at last may see The light wherein Thou dwellest aye. Amen.

Text: Sacris solemniis, St. Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274); Tune: MOHR, Hoseph Mohr (d. 1892); c. arrangement and harmony by Nicola Montani.

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having received with reverence the divine mysteries, We humbly beseech you, O Lord, To inflame with the fire of the Holy Spirit these your servants Bound to you now by an act of sacred offering And to admit them for ever to the company of your Son Who lives and reigns forever and ever.

#### SOLEMN BLESSING AT THE END OF MASS

May God, the inspirer of every good resolve, foster your purposes and strengthen your hearts, that what you have promised you may keep with persevering faith.

#### R. Amen

May he grant you to hasten in the joy of Christ along the narrow way you have chosen, rejoicing to bear the burdens of your sisters.

#### R. Amen

May the charity of God make of you a family brought together in the Lord's name, to show forth the image of the love of Christ.

#### R. Amen

And may almighty God bless all of you, who are gathered for these sacred rites, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

#### R. Amen



#### **RECESSIONAL HYMN OF PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING**

#### O GOD, BEYOND ALL PRAISING

Michael Perry

THAXTED Gustav Holst, 1874–1934 Setting by Richard Proulx

All 1. O God, be-yond all prais-ing, we wor-ship you to -Choir 2. The flow'r of earth - ly splen - dor in time must sure - ly All 3. Then hear, Ο gra-cious Sav - ior, cept the love we ac \_ a - maz - ing day and sing the love that songs can-not re frag - ile bloom sur-ren - der you, the Lord most die. its to we who know your fa - vor may bring, that serve you as our for can on - ly won - der gift you pay; we at ev 'ry high; but hid - den from all na - ture the e - ter \_ nal seed is wheth - er our to-mor-rows King; be filled with good or and send, at bless - ings with out num ber and though small in mor sowntal stat to ure, ill, we'll tri - umph through our sor rows and lift our hearts bemer - cies with end: out we for Christ the man from heav-en's gar den grown: rise to praise you still: to mar vel at your fore you and wait up on your word, we from death has heav en set free, and us \_ and glo - ry your beau \_ inways, and ty dore great and might - y Lord. hon or and a you, our through him are giv vic - to - ry. we \_ en the fi - nal joy - ful sac - ri - fice of praise. make a du \_ ty our "O God, Beyond All Praising" Words Copyright © 1982, 1987 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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"Religious life, according to the Council,

belongs to the holiness and life of the Church. It is clear how it pertains to the holiness, but it also pertains to the life, so that we must say that without religious life, the Church would not be full. She would miss an essential part of her vocation. This fact can be spoken of as a title of glory of the religious life, but at the same time, it is a powerful challenge to truly live religious life so that the Church may live in her full light and glory." —Augustine Cardinal Mayer, O.S.B.

## Please join us for a luncheon reception.

# You are also welcome to join the Sisters at Holy Hour in the Cathedral at 4:00 p.m.

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