

THE ORDER FOR RECONCILING INDIVIDUAL PENITENTS

THE RECEPTION OF THE PENITENT

41. When the penitent comes to confess his (her) sins, the Priest welcomes him (her) with kindness and greets him (her) with friendly words.

42. Then the penitent and, if appropriate, the Priest as well, sign themselves with the Sign of the Cross, saying:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Priest invites the penitent to have trust in God, in these or similar words:

May God, who has shone his light in our hearts
grant that you may truly know your sins
and his mercy.

The penitent replies:

Amen.

Other optional texts, nos. 67-71.

THE READING OF THE WORD OF GOD (OPTIONAL)

43. Then, if appropriate, the Priest reads or recites from memory a text of Sacred Scripture in which God's mercy is announced and people are called to conversion.

The texts are found at nos. 72-84.

THE CONFESSION OF SINS AND THE ACCEPTANCE OF SATISFACTION

44. Next, the penitent confesses his (her) sins, after first saying, where it is the custom, a general formula for confession (e.g., I confess to almighty God).



If necessary, the Priest assists the penitent to make an integral confession, offers him (her) suitable counsel, and urges him (her) to have contrition for his (her) faults, reminding him (her) that through the Sacrament of Penance a Christian, by dying and rising with Christ, is renewed in the Paschal Mystery. Then the Priest proposes a work of penance that the penitent accepts to make satisfaction for sin and to amend his (her) life.

The Priest should take care that he adapts to the penitent's circumstances in every way, whether in the manner of speaking or even in the counsel provided.

THE PRAYER OF THE PENITENT AND THE ABSOLUTION

45. The Priest then invites the penitent to express his (her) contrition, which the penitent may do in these or similar words:

O my God,
I am sorry and repent with all my heart
for all the wrong I have done
and for the good I have failed to do,
because by sinning I have offended you,
who are all good and worthy to be loved above all things.
I firmly resolve, with the help of your grace,
to do penance,
to sin no more,
and to avoid the occasions of sin.
Through the merits of the Passion
of our Savior Jesus Christ,
Lord, have mercy.

Other optional texts, nos. 85-92.

46. Then the Priest, extending his hands over the penitent's head (or at least extending his right hand), says:

God, the Father of mercies,
through the Death and Resurrection of his Son
has reconciled the world to himself
and poured out the Holy Spirit for the forgiveness of sins;
through the ministry of the Church
may God grant you pardon and peace.

AND I ABSOLVE YOU FROM YOUR SINS,
IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, ✠
AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

The penitent replies:

Amen.

THE PROCLAMATION OF PRAISE OF GOD AND THE DISMISSAL OF THE PENITENT

47. After the absolution, the Priest continues:

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good.

The penitent concludes:

For his mercy endures for ever.

Then the Priest dismisses the penitent who has been reconciled,
saying:

The Lord has forgiven your sins.
Go in peace.

Other optional texts, no. 93.