

THE INDUCTION OF PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

The induction of parish council members is conducted on a Sunday, in the context of the Liturgy.

Even if a person has been re-elected to the council, he or she is inducted with those elected for the first-time.

Immediately after the Prayer of the Ambo, the Rector or Priest-in-Charge summons, one-by-one, and by name, the newly-elected parish council members to before the Ambo/Solea.

Then he says :

Rector: **N.N. :** You have been duly elected as members of the council of this parish. Your office is sacred by reason of its importance not only to this parish's welfare, but also to the extension of the Kingdom of God here on earth. Be mindful that this parish does not belong to you ; it belongs to Christ alone, and you are only stewards of His property. Your office gives you the opportunity to serve God, the faithful of this parish, and the world for which Jesus Christ died, and rose again, in imitation of that same Christ Who came, not to be served, but to serve. May the Lord our God, by the outpouring upon you of His divine grace, make you faithful servants in the dedication of your time, talents, and treasure to the well-being of His holy Church.

N.N. : Do you here, in the presence of God, and before these faithful, your brothers, and sisters in Christ, declare, and promise that you will fulfil loyally, faithfully, and humbly, the duties of the office to which you have been chosen in this parish ; and that you will abide by Holy Tradition in all its fulness, and in obedience to the Ruling Bishop of this Diocese ?

Councillors (together): I will, the Lord being my Helper.

Rector: Do you promise to promote the peace, unity, purity, and tranquillity of the

Church ?

Councilors (together): I do, the Lord being my Helper.

Rector: N.N.: You are admitted to the office of Councillor in the Parish of N. ; and you are enjoined by God Himself to discharge your office to the utmost of your ability, knowing that on that Great Day you will be required to give account of your stewardship before the Dread Judgement-seat of Christ.

And immediately, the priest says :

Rector: Let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Rector: O LORD, God of our Fathers : You built the Church upon the foundation of the Apostles, and Prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone. Grant that these Your servants may work in union with Your holy will, and purpose, and in living unity with Your beloved Son, our Saviour ; that by the power of Your Holy Spirit, they may be inspired to love You, and desire to extend Your Kingdom among men. Bless, and guide their good works in Your holy Church. Prosper their undertakings. Grant them perseverance in their labours, and wisdom to discern Your perfect will in all things ; and by their good example, stimulate others to a like zeal in Your service. Grant them so to be joined together in unity of mind, and spirit with Your Church, that they may be made a holy temple acceptable to You, the Father Who are from everlasting, together with Your only-begotten Son, and Your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, always, now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

All: Amen.

Rector: Peace be to all.

All: And to your spirit.

Rector: Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

All: To You, O Lord.

Rector: O LORD God, heavenly Father : in Your gracious, and beneficent care for Your Church, You have given to this parish people willing to serve it for Your sake. Grant, we beseech You, to these Your servants the gifts of Your Holy Spirit, that they may give themselves wholly to the service and ministry to which they have been called, with all fidelity, reverence, sincerity, and singleness of mind.

Let Your blessing descend upon this parish, and so lead it by Your Spirit, that it may be a church holy, and without blemish ; for You are a merciful God, and You love mankind ; and we give You glory, to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

All: Amen.

Now, facing the newly-inducted Councillors, the priest imparts this blessing :

Rector: Let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Rector: May almighty God, One in the Holy Trinity, Who has called you to the service of His Church, bless you, + enlighten you, and strengthen you in your service, that you may prove good and faithful stewards, to the glory of His all-holy

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

R: Amen.

And he sprinkles the Councillors with Holy Water.

The Liturgy then continues with the singing of "Blesséd be the Name of the Lord..."