

***THE OFFICE FOR RECEIVING
THOSE COMING TO
THE ORTHODOX CHURCH
FROM
THE ROMAN-LATIN CONFESSIOIN***

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The Priest shall stand at the doors of the church in epitachelion and phelonion. And he questions the one converting to the Orthodox faith, saying:

Priest: Do you wish to renounce the transgressions and errors of the Roman-Latin Confession?

Convert: I do.

Priest: Do you wish to enter into union with the Orthodox-Catholic Faith?

Convert: I do.

Then the Priest blesses him (her), making the sign of the Cross with his right hand, saying:

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

And laying his hand upon the bowed head of the convert, he recites the following prayer:

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: O Lord, God of truth, look down upon Thy servant (*handmaiden*), *N.*, who seeks to make haste unto Thy Holy Orthodox Church, and to take refuge under her shelter. Turn him (*her*) from his (*her*) former error to the path of true faith in Thee, and grant him (*her*) to walk in all Thy commandments. Let Thine eyes ever look down upon him (*her*) with mercy, and let Thine ears hearken unto the voice of his (*her*) supplication, that he (*she*) may be numbered with Thine elect flock.

For all the Powers of Heaven hymn Thee, and Thine is the glory: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

After this Prayer, he shall question the convert:

Priest: Do you renounce the erroneous doctrine that, for the expression of the dogma concerning the Procession of the Holy Spirit, the declaration of the Saviour Christ Himself, "who proceeds from the Father", does not suffice, and that the addition, "and from the Son", to the word of Christ Himself, is necessary?

And he (she) replies:

I renounce it.

The Priest questions him (her):

Priest: Do you renounce the erroneous supposition that it does not suffice to confess our Lord Jesus Christ as the head of the Universal Church, but that the Bishop of Rome is the head of the whole Church?

He (she) replies:

I renounce it.

The Priest questions him (her):

Priest: Do you renounce the erroneous supposition that the Holy Apostles did not receive from our Lord Jesus Christ equal spiritual power, but that the holy Apostle Peter was their Prince; and that the Bishop of Rome alone is his successor, and that the Bishops of Jerusalem, Antioch, Alexandria and the others are not, equally with the Bishop of Rome, successors of the Apostles?

He (she) replies:

I renounce it.

Priest: Do you renounce the erroneous understanding of those who think that the Pope of Rome is superior to the Ecumenical Councils and infallible?

He (she) replies:

I forsake such an opinion.

Priest: Do you renounce all the other doctrines of the Latin confession of faith, both old and new, which are contrary to the Word of God, and to the true Tradition of the Church, and to the decrees of the Seven Ecumenical Councils?

He (she) replies:

I renounce them.

Again the Priest questions the convert:

Priest: Do you desire, therefore, to be joined unto the Holy Orthodox Catholic Eastern Church?

And the convert answers:

I desire it with all my heart.

Again the Priest questions the convert:

Priest: Do you believe in One God, glorified in the Trinity, and do you worship Him?

And the convert answers:

I believe in One God, glorified in the Trinity: the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit; and I worship Him.

Then, having made a bow to the ground, he (she) reads the Symbol of Faith:

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Only-begotten, begotten of the Father before all ages; Light of Light: true God of true God; begotten, not made; of one essence with the Father, by Whom all things were made; Who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man; And was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered, and was buried; And arose again on the third day according to the Scriptures; And ascended into Heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of the Father; And shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life; Who proceeds from the Father; Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; Who spake by the prophets.

In One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. I confess one baptism for the remission of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the age to come. Amen.

Then the Priest says:

Priest: Blessed is God, Who enlighteneth every man that comes into the world.

Choir: Amen.

And again, he inquires:

Priest: Do you accept the Apostolic Canons and the others established at the Seven Ecumenical and Nine Provincial Councils, and the other traditions and rules of the Orthodox Church?

And he (she) replies:

I accept them.

The Priest questions him (her):

Priest: Do you confess that it is meet to accept and interpret the books of Divine Scripture according to the understanding which the Orthodox Church holds concerning them?

He (she) replies:

I confess it.

The Priest questions him (her):

Priest: Do you accept also this, that there are seven Mysteries, instituted by Christ God, necessary to be kept according to the order of the Orthodox Church, but not otherwise given to the faithful?

He (she) replies:

I accept and embrace it, for such is necessary.

Priest: Do you confess that the head of the Orthodox-Catholic Church is our Lord Jesus Christ, and promise unfeigned obedience to the Shepherds appointed by the Holy Spirit?

He (she) replies:

I confess it, and I promise to obey the Shepherds of the Orthodox Church.

Then the priest gives the convert the end of his epitrachelion, and says:

Enter into the Orthodox Church, and utterly rejecting the errors wherein you have dwelt, honour the Father Almighty, His Son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit who proceeds from the Father, the Trinity One is Essence and Undivided.

And thus leading the convert into the church, he places him (her) before a table, upon which is laid a Cross and Gospel Book. And Psalm 67 is sung by those coming with him:

O God be gracious unto us and bless us; and make Thy face to shine upon us, and have mercy on us, that Thy way may be known upon earth, and thy salvation among all nations. Let the peoples give praise unto Thee, O God; let all the peoples give praise unto Thee. Let the nations rejoice and be glad, for thou shalt judge the peoples with equity, and guide the nations upon the earth. Let the peoples give praise unto Thee, O God; let all the peoples give praise unto Thee. The earth has yielded its fruit. Do Thou bless us, O God, O our God. Do Thou bless us, O God; and let all the ends of the earth fear Him.

Then the priest commands him (her) to kneel down; and the Priest says these verses:

Send forth Thy spirit, and they shall be created; and Thou shalt renew the face of the earth.

Save Thy servant, O my God, that hopes in Thee.

Be unto him, O lord, a pillar of strength against the face of the enemy.

O Lord, hearken unto my prayer, and let my cry come unto Thee.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: O Lord God almighty, Who has set before sinners models of repentance and showest the right path unto them that have gone astray, that not one of them should perish, but that all may be saved: We give thanks unto Thee, for Thou hast illumined this Thy servant, N., with the light of understanding of Thy truth, and Thou hast counted him (*her*) worthy to make haste unto Thy Holy Orthodox-Catholic Church. Grant, therefore, that he (*she*) may be joined to it, sincerely and irrevocably. Number him (*her*) with Thy chosen Flock. Make him (*her*) a pure vessel and the abode of Thy Holy Spirit, that, ever being illumined and guided by the Same, he (*she*) may preserve, without change, Thy saving commandments, and thus be counted worthy to receive Thy heavenly good things.

For Thou art a God of mercy and compassion and love for mankind, and willest that all men should be saved, and unto Thee do we send up glory: to the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

After this Prayer, he commands him (her) to stand, saying:

Stand aright. Stand with fear. And before the Gospel and the Holy Cross of the Saviour affirm your vow.

And he (she), rising, says:

The Orthodox-Catholic Faith, which I now voluntarily confess, I will firmly maintain whole and inviolate even unto my last breath, God helping me, and I shall strive to fulfil its precepts zealously and joyfully, preserving my heart in purity, as far as possible. In confirmation of this, my vow, I kiss the Words and Cross of my Saviour. Amen.

After he (she) has kissed them, the Priest says:

Blessed is God, who willeth that all men should be saved, and should come unto the knowledge of the Truth. Blessed is He unto the ages.

Choir: Amen.

Then the convert stands, in expectation of the Liturgy, or, if he (she) is not yet signed with Chrism, the Chrismation.