

TERTIARY ORDER OF THE HOLY PARACLETE

The Tertiary Journey

We are delighted that you are considering your calling into the Tertiary Order of the Holy Paraclete. This document outlines the key steps into full Tertiary membership, which we hope will be helpful as you hold this calling in your prayer.

Initial enquiry

The Warden of the Order will have been in touch and sent you a copy of the Tertiary Order leaflet. Having read this, and if you feel it appropriate to continue, please contact the Warden for a conversation. The Warden will want to hear about your faith journey and your sense of calling to TOHP and may ask you to provide a reference from your local priest or minister. The Warden will also send you a copy of the Tertiary Order Rule of Life for you to think about and pray through, and a guide to establishing a Rule of Life. Please take your time to consider this and if/when you feel you would like to commit to the next stage of the journey, the Warden will put you in touch with your local group, or, where there is no local group, the Lones network, and an experienced Tertiary (“Link Tertiary”) will start to accompany you on your journey.

Becoming a postulant

This is the first formal stage in your journey. There is a short liturgy (below) which will admit you as a postulant. This can be done in your local group, at a Chapter meeting or at your local church. You will be given a small folder, a copy of the Middy Prayer and Compline booklet and a formal copy of the Rule of Life. Normally people remain as postulants for 3-6 months. During this time you can continue to develop your Rule of Life and continue to meet with your Link tertiary. You will be placed on our mailing list and start to receive mailings 3 times a year (Lent, Advent and August) which include the prayer diary, the Warden’s letter and papers for meetings. You will also be given access to the Members Area in the TOHP website.

Becoming a novice

This is the second stage. Again, there is a short liturgy, which is normally done at the Priory during a Tertiary event or Chapter, but it can be done locally if necessary. You will receive your Novice Cross and a commentary on the Rule. At this point, you will also be asked to start paying your annual subscription (Single £20 Couple £30). You will be a novice for at least 2 years before you can take your full vows. During this time you can continue to develop your Rule of Life and to meet with your Link tertiary.

Becoming a full member

This is the third stage. Again, there is a short liturgy, which is normally done at the Priory during a Tertiary event or Chapter. You will receive your full member cross. There is a charge for your pendant cross of £45. We will need to have your novice cross back from you.¹

Renewing your vows

Members commit to renewing their vows every three years, usually at the Chapter meeting, but it can be done locally if circumstances dictate.

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Liturgies

¹ In the event of a full member resigning from the Tertiary Order, their full members cross should be returned to the Warden. A refund on the cost of the cross may be made to the resigning member if they wish.

ADMISSION OF POSTULANTS, NOVICES, FULL MEMBERS AND RENEWAL OF VOWS

ADMISSION OF POSTULANTS

All sit except Warden, Officiant and Candidates

Warden: N....., I present to you to be admitted as Postulant(s) in the Tertiary Order of the Holy Paraclete.

Officiant:, is it your wish to be admitted as Postulant in the Tertiary Order of the Holy Paraclete?

Candidate(s): It is, the Lord being my Guide.

Officiant: Do you believe that God is calling you to explore this way of life?

Candidate(s): I do believe it, the Lord knowing my heart.

Officiant: *(gives the candidate(s) a copy of the Tertiary Rule and the green folder)*

Do you intend to be faithful the Rule of this Order?

Candidate(s): I do, by the grace of God, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Officiant: Grant, O Lord, we beseech you, to your servant(s), now admitted as Postulant(s) of the Tertiary Order, the grace of perseverance; give him/her (them) the gifts of simplicity and singleness of heart, of sympathy and love. Be his/her (their) guide in all doubt, his/her (their) support in weariness, and his/her (their) comfort in sorrow; and give him/her (them) the revelation of the love of your only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honour and glory now and for evermore.

Candidate(s): Amen

ADMISSION OF NOVICES

All sit except Warden, Officiant and Candidates

Warden: N-----, I present to you to be admitted as Novice(s) in the Tertiary Order of the Holy Paraclete.

Officiant:, is it your wish to be admitted as Novice in the Tertiary Order of the Holy Paraclete?

Candidate(s): It is, the Lord being my Guide.

Officiant: Do you firmly believe that God is calling you to this way of life?

Candidate(s): I do believe it, the Lord knowing my heart.

Officiant: *(gives the candidate(s) their Commentary on the Rule)*

Do you intend to be faithful the Rule of this Order?

Candidate(s): I do, by the grace of God, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Officiant: May God grant you his help to keep your promises.

Holy Spirit of love, bless this cross (these crosses) that she/he who wears it (they who wear them) may be rooted and grounded in love, upheld in faith and grow in grace. May it be to her/him (them) a sign of your love and a witness to your presence in the world.

(delivers crosses to the candidate(s), saying to each, individually)

Receive this cross as a sign of your dedication to God in the life of this Order, in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Candidate(s): Amen

ADMISSION OF FULL MEMBERS

All sit except Warden, Officiant and Candidates

Warden: N...., I present to you to be admitted as Full Members of the Tertiary Order of the Holy Paraclete.

Officiant:, is it your wish to be admitted as Full Members of the Tertiary Order of the Holy Paraclete?

Candidate(s): It is, the Lord being my Guide.

Officiant: Do you promise to devote yourself, through your daily life as a member of this Order, to the glory of God and the furtherance of his kingdom?

Candidate(s): I do, sustained by God's help.

Officiant: Do you firmly believe that God is still calling you to this way of life?

Candidate(s): I do believe it, the Lord knowing my heart.

Officiant: Do you intend to be faithful the Rule of this Order?

Candidate(s): I do, by the grace of God, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Officiant: May God give you a new vision of his love, faith to affirm it and grace to fulfil it.

Holy Spirit of love, bless this cross (these crosses) that she/he who wears it (they who wear them) may be rooted and grounded in love, upheld in faith and grow in grace. May it be to her/him (them) a sign of your love and a witness to your presence in the world.

(The officiant receives novice crosses from each candidate and delivers the full members crosses to them, saying to each, individually)

Receive this cross as a sign of your dedication to God in the life of this Order, in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Candidate(s): Amen

RENEWAL OF VOWS

All sit except the Warden, Officiant and Candidates

Warden: N...., I present to you to renew their vows as Full Members of the Tertiary Order of the Holy Paraclete.

Officiant:, is it your wish to renew your vows as Full Members of the Tertiary Order of the Holy Paraclete?

Candidate(s): It is, the Lord being my Guide.

As a token of that wish, the candidate(s) place their own copies of the Tertiary Rule on the altar, or on an open Bible held by the Officiant.

Officiant: Have you, God being your helper, endeavoured to live your life in accordance with the Tertiary Rule?

Candidate(s): I have, the Paraclete aiding me, persevered with joy in this way of life.

Officiant: Have you looked carefully at your Rule, and the way you have lived it, with the Light of Christ to help you?

Candidate(s): I have, the Lord being my Light.

Officiant: Having carefully considered your Rule, do you firmly believe that God is still calling you to this way of life?

Candidate(s): I do believe it, the Lord knowing my heart.

Officiant: Do you intend to continue to be faithful to the Rule of this Order?

Candidate(s): I do, by the grace of God, in power of the Holy Spirit.

Officiant: May God give you a new vision of his love, faith to affirm it and grace to fulfil it.

The Service continues in common from this point.

Warden: (to all present) Will all of you here do everything in your power to support our companions in this way of life?

All: We will, the Lord being our strength

Officiant: Almighty God, who at all times teaches the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit, grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgement in all things, and evermore to rejoice in your holy comfort; through Jesus Christ our Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. **Amen.**

Warden: We rejoice with you as companions in this way of life.

All: May God grant you perseverance and joy in the promises you have made.

Great God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom every family in heaven and earth is named; grant us, that according to the riches of your glory, we may be strengthened with might by your Spirit in the depths of our being, that Christ may dwell in our hearts by faith, that we being rooted and grounded in love, may have power to comprehend with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that we may be filled with all the fullness of God. Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the same Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.

Officiant: The Spirit of truth, lead you into all truth, give you grace to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, and to proclaim the word and works of God, and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you and all those whom you love, now and forever. **Amen**