

THE RECEPTION OF CONVERTS BY CHRISMATION

Those who are accepting the Orthodox Faith, having received a valid Trinitarian Baptism, i.e. in the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and having undertaken a course of instruction in the beliefs and practices of the Orthodox Church.

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

Placing his hand on the bowed head of the candidate, the Priest says: Let us pray to the Lord, and the people respond with, "Lord have mercy". The Priest continues: In Your Name, Lord God of truth, and in the Name of Your only-begotten Son, and of Your Holy Spirit, look with favor on this your servant _____ (Christian Name is given at this time) whom You have graciously brought under the shelter of Your wings and encouraged to seek entry into Your Holy Orthodox Church. Imbue him (her) with the true faith, with hope and with love. Grant him (her) grace to keep all Your commandments, doing only those things that are well-pleasing to You, for this is the way of life. Inscribe his (her) name in Your Book of Life, unite him (her) to the flock of Your inheritance, and let Your Holy Name be glorified in him (her) with that of Your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and of Your life-giving Spirit. Will You look upon him (her) always in mercy, and incline Your ear to the voice of his (her) prayer, so that he (she) may make bold to confess You, worshipping You in righteousness and glorifying Your great and most high Name, magnifying You all the days of his (her) life. For all the powers of heaven praise You, and Yours is the glory, of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and always and forever and ever. Amen.

The Priest will then address the candidate directly

Is it your true desire to be united to the Holy Orthodox Church?

The candidate will reply

I desire it with all my heart.

The Priest: Do you renounce all heresies, ancient and modern, and all doctrines which are contrary to the teachings of the Holy Orthodox Church?

The candidate: I do.

The Priest: Do you accept the Apostolic and Ecclesiastical Canons framed at the Seven Ecumenical Councils, as well as by Provincial Councils, and the traditions and ordinances of the Orthodox Church?

The candidate: I do.

The Priest: Do you understand and acknowledge that the Holy Scriptures must be accepted and interpreted in accordance with the Sacred Tradition that has been handed down by the Holy Fathers unchanged through the ages?

The candidate: I do.

The Priest: Do you understand and acknowledge seven Sacraments: Baptism, Chrismation, the Eucharist, Penance, Priesthood, Matrimony, and Holy Oil, instituted by our Lord and His Church, and believe that through these we are sanctified?

The candidate: I do.

The Priest: Do you believe that in the Divine Liturgy, under the mystical forms of the bread and wine, the faithful partake of the very Body and Blood of Christ for the remission of sins and life eternal?

The candidate: I do.

The Priest: Do you believe that the Church has received from her Head, Jesus Christ the Great High Priest, the power to bind and to loose the sins of the people?

The candidate: I do.

The Priest: Above all, do you confess the true faith as expressed by the divinely inspired Fathers and Nicea and Constantinople?

The candidate: I do.

The candidate then recites the Creed or "Symbol of Faith": I believe in one God...

The Priest: Blessed is our God Who enlightens and sanctifies all who come into the world! As a faithful servant of Christ Jesus, entreat Him with us that He will grant to you, through anointing with the Holy Chrism, to receive the grace of the Holy Spirit.

The Priest continues: In peace let us pray to the Lord...

The candidate responds each time with "Lord have mercy"

For the peace from above and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

For peace in the world, the stability of God's holy churches, and for the oneness of all...

For our Archbishop (N), the honorable Presbyters, the Deacons in Christ, and for all the clergy and the people...

For the servant of God (N), that he (she) may be granted divine power through anointing with the Holy Chrism, and prove to be a faithful servant of Christ our Lord by the indwelling grace of the Holy Spirit...

That he (she) may remain steadfast and strong, boldly confessing Christ our God before the world until the dreadful judgment day of Christ ...

That he (she) may increase in virtue, prosper in God's commandments, life and faith, and mature to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit...

Remembering our most holy, pure, blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another, and our whole life to Christ our God.

For all glory, honor, and worship are Your due, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and always and forever and ever. Amen.

The Priest then anoints the Convert with the Holy Chrism, saying: The seal of the gift of the Holy Spirit. Amen

The Priest continues...Let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mercy

Lord our God, You have graciously granted to this Your servant the seal of the gift of Your Holy Spirit. Will You continue to guide him (her) to the fullness of Your truth, safeguarding him (her) in the true faith and all righteousness, and adorning him (her) with all Your gifts. For You are the giver of every perfect gift, and to You we give the glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forevermore. Amen.

Then wiping the places which have been anointed, he says: You are justified. You are illumined. You are sanctified, in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ and by the Holy

Spirit. You have been anointed with Holy Chrism, thus becoming a member of the Royal Priesthood of God, an inheritor of the Kingdom. Maintain without stain the garment of righteousness, be vigilant against the devices of the Evil One, that you may remain victorious to the end and be deserving of the imperishable crown in Christ Jesus our Lord and our Redeemer.

Through the prayers of the Holy Fathers, of Saint _____ (name taken), Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us. Amen.