

*Profession of Perpetual Vows*

RELIGIOUS SISTERS OF MERCY OF ALMA, MICHIGAN  
CATHEDRAL OF MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION

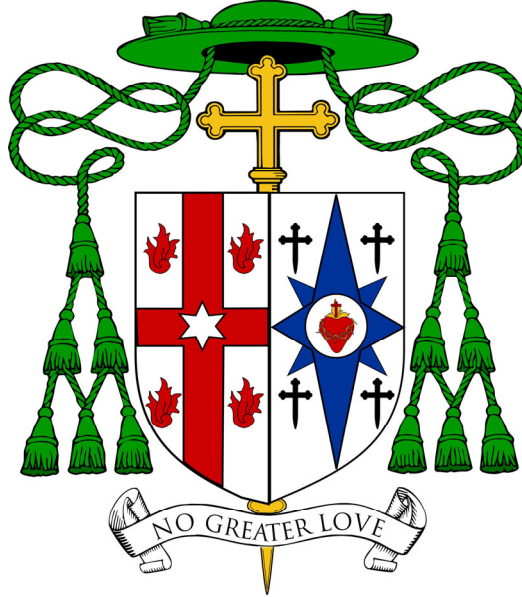
Religious Sisters of Mercy  
of Alma, Michigan

RITUAL MASS  
FOR THE PROFESSION OF PERPETUAL VOWS

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 2020

2:00 p.m.

Cathedral of Mary of the Assumption  
Saginaw, Michigan



PRINCIPLE CELEBRANT  
AND  
HOMILIST

Most Reverend Robert D. Gruss

*Bishop of Saginaw*

## CONCELEBRANTS

Most Reverend William Joensen

*Bishop of Des Moines, Iowa*

Most Reverend Carl F. Mengeling

*Bishop Emeritus of Lansing, Michigan*

Most Reverend John Quinn

*Bishop of Winona-Rochester, Minnesota*

Priests who are Friends of the  
Sisters Professing Perpetual Vows

# SISTERS PROFESSING VOWS

Followed by the ring motto chosen by the Sister,  
and engraved inside her profession ring

*Sister Mary Rafqa Boulos, RSM*  
*Thy Will Be Done*

*Sister Mary Elisha Glady, RSM*  
*A Sacrifice of Praise*

*Sister Marie Josepha Kluczny, RSM*  
*Holy Holy Holy*

*Sister Maliya Suen, RSM*  
*Here I am, Lord*

*Sister Marie Faustina Wolniakowski, RSM*  
*With*

## **READERS**

Sister Gabrielle Mary Braccio, RSM  
Sister Mary Nika Schaumber, RSM

## **CANTORS**

Sister Sean Marie Striby, RSM  
Sister Maria Juan Anderson, RSM

## **ORGANIST**

Sister Andrea Marie Lee, RSM

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Respecting the Covid-19 restrictions placed on gatherings of people, the congregation must practice social distancing and wear masks. Rather than Congregational singing of hymns, Sisters will sing the hymns and responses for the Mass. Reception of Holy Communion will be at the end of Mass.

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## **PRELUDE**

*Veni Sponsa Christi*  
(Henri Clemens, SMM)

Chanted by a Scola of the Religious Sisters of Mercy

“Come, bride of Christ,  
receive the crown  
which the Lord has prepared for you  
for all eternity.”

The Sisters who will profess their Perpetual Vows with the Holy Mass carry a lighted candle in the Entrance procession. This candle symbolizes that the Perpetual Vows they publicly profess are rooted in their baptismal promise. At Baptism, they received a candle that was lit from the flame of the Paschal Candle, symbolizing the Light of Christ which overcomes the darkness of sin and death. While in Baptism they receive new life in Christ, in Religious Profession they freely respond to the invitation from Christ to follow Him more closely. The Profession candle that the Sisters carry indicates their free self-gift within the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN

### **“Come Down O Love Divine”**

Come down, O love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,  
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;  
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,  
and kindle it, Thy holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn, til earthly passions turn  
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;  
And let thy glorious light shine ever on my sight,  
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,  
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;  
True lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,  
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

And so the yearning strong, with which the soul will long,  
shall far outpass the power of human telling;  
For none can guess its grace, till they become the place  
where-in the Holy Spirit finds a dwelling.

*“Come Down, O Love Divine”*

is a 14th-century hymn written by Bianco da Siena.

**Greeting**  
**Penitential Rite**  
**KYRIE**  
**GLORIA**  
**Collect**

O God, who willed that the grace of Baptism  
should flourish in these your servants,  
so that they might strive to follow more closely  
in the footsteps of your Son,  
grant, we pray,  
that, constantly seeking evangelical perfection,  
they may add to the holiness of your Church  
and increase her apostolic zeal.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### **A Reading from the Book of Samuel.**

**1 Samuel 3, 1-10**

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. The Lord called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said,



“Here I am, for you called me.” Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, “Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, ‘Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.’” So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, “Samuel! Samuel!” And Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant is listening.”

### ***The Word of the Lord***

R. Thanks be to God.

**Psalm Response:** My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God

### **Second Reading:**

**Romans 12, 1-13**

I appeal to you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I bid every one among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith which God has assigned him. For as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; he who teaches, in his teaching; he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who contributes, in liberality; he who gives aid, with zeal; he who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Never flag in zeal, be aglow with the Spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints, practice hospitality.

### ***The Word of the Lord***

R. Thanks be to God

## Gospel Acclamation

**John 15, 5**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me, and I in him, bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

## A Reading from the holy Gospel according to John **John 15, 9-17**

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide; so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. This I command you, to love one another.

## *The Gospel of the Lord*

### **R. Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ**



## CALLING BY NAME AND REQUEST

After the Gospel, the celebrant and the congregation are seated; those to profess Perpetual Vows remain standing. The Superior General takes her place in front of the sanctuary and calls by name each Sister who will profess Perpetual Vows.

The Sisters respond by stating: Present. The Sisters proceed to the sanctuary. They stand, facing the Superior General, and say:

With the help of God's grace, I (Sister 'N' - pronounced in order), have come to know more deeply the love of Christ and to desire a life completely dedicated to Him, a life based upon the little virtues, which express our legacy of union and charity and impel us into a spirituality of communion.

Mother Mary McGreevy, I now ask to be allowed to make perpetual profession in this Institute of the Religious Sisters of Mercy of Alma, Michigan, for the glory of God and the service of the Church.

The Superior General and the members of the religious community reply:  
Thanks be to God.

The Superior General and the Sisters return to their places.

## HOMILY

## EXAMINATION

The Superior General stands at the front of the sanctuary. The Sisters who will profess Perpetual Vows approach the sanctuary and stand facing the Superior General.

The congregation stands. The Superior General examines the Sisters by asking the following questions:

Dear Sisters, you have been made in the image and likeness of God, restored to supernatural life in baptism, chosen by the initiative of the Father, and set aside for His service by cooperation with this initiative. Are you now determined to unite yourselves more closely to Him by the bond of perpetual profession?

**The Sisters respond together:** I am.

**The Superior General asks:** Are you resolved, with the help of God, to undertake that life of perfect chastity, obedience, poverty and service chosen first by Christ our Lord and His Virgin Mother for themselves, and are you resolved to persevere in it forever?

**The Sisters respond together:** I am.

**The Superior General asks:** Are you resolved to strive steadfastly for perfection in the love of God by your joyous dedication to the common life, willingness to serve the needs of your Sisters and of the Church, and faithful observance of the Constitutions of this Religious Institute?

**The Sisters respond together:** I am.

**The Superior General concludes the examination by confirming the intention of those to profess Perpetual Vows with these words:**

May God, who has begun the good work in you, bring it to fulfillment before the day of Christ Jesus.

**All respond:** Amen.

## LITANY OF THE SAINTS

**All rise. The Celebrant stands and with hands joined says:**

Dear friends in Christ, let us pray to God the almighty Father for these servants of His whom He has called to follow Christ in the Religious life; in His love may He bless them with His grace and strengthen them in their holy purpose.

**The Sisters professing vows prostrate before the altar during the chanting of the Litany of the Saints.**

**The congregation kneels.**

**Then, the Celebrant says, with hands joined:**

Lord,  
grant the prayers of Your people.  
Prepare the hearts of Your servants for consecration to Your service.  
By the grace of the Holy Spirit purify them from all sin  
and set them on fire with Your love.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

**All stand.**



## PROFESSION OF RELIGIOUS VOWS

After the Litany of the Saints, the Superior General takes her place in front of the sanctuary. One at a time, each Sister comes forward, kneels facing the Superior General, and professes her Vows, reading from her hand-written formulary.

The Superior General responds to each Sister:  
N., I accept your vows.

The Sister and the Superior General approach the altar and sign the vow formulary upon the altar. After signing her vows, each Sister returns to her place. The Superior General returns to her place after all of the Sisters have professed and signed their vows.

## ACT OF RELIGIOUS PROFESSION

In the Name of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and under the protection of His Immaculate Mother, Mary ever Virgin, I, \_\_\_\_\_, called in Religion \_\_\_\_\_, do Vow to Almighty God, Poverty, Chastity, and Obedience, and the Service of the Poor, Sick, and Ignorant, and to persevere faithfully until death in this Institute of the Religious Sisters of Mercy of Alma, Michigan, according to its Constitutions. I call upon this Mercy Institute and you, Mother Mary McGreevy, RSM, Superior General of the Institute of the Religious Sisters of Mercy, to accept these vows and to confirm me in the truth of this act, on this sixteenth day of August in the year of Our Lord 2018.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ In Religion \_\_\_\_\_  
Superior General \_\_\_\_\_  
Witness \_\_\_\_\_ Witness \_\_\_\_\_

## SOLEMN PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

The Sisters who have professed Perpetual Vows return to the sanctuary and kneel before the altar. The Celebrant moves to the front of the altar, and with hands extended over the Sisters prays the solemn prayer of consecration:

Father in heaven, our desire to serve you is itself your gift and our perseverance needs your guiding hand. How right it is that we should sing your praise.

With boundless love you created the human family through your Word, in the Holy Spirit, and lifted it up into communion with yourself; you make the human family your bride radiant with the gift of everlasting life. When your bride, deceived by the evil one, broke faith with you, you did not abandon her. With everlasting love you renewed with your servant Noah the covenant you made with Adam.

Then you chose Abraham, the man of faith, to be the father of a people more numerous than the stars of heaven. By the hand of Moses you sealed a covenant with them in the tables of the law. Throughout the ages there arose from this favored people holy women renowned for devotion and courage, justice and faith. In the fullness of time you raised up the Holy Virgin from the stock of Jesse. The Holy Spirit was to come upon her, and your power was to overshadow her, making her the Immaculate Mother of the world's Redeemer. He became poor, humble, and obedient, the source and pattern of all holiness. He formed the Church into His bride, loving it with love so great that He gave Himself up for it and sanctified it in His blood. Father, in Your loving wisdom you have singled out many of your daughters to be disciples espoused to Christ and to receive the honor of His love. Holy Church shines with their rich variety, a bride adorned with jewels, a queen robed in grace, a mother rejoicing in her children. Father, we earnestly pray to you: send the fire of the Holy Spirit into the hearts of your daughters to keep alive within them the holy desire He has given them.

Lord, may the glory of baptism and holiness of life shine in their hearts. Strengthened by the vows of their consecration, may they be always one with you in loving fidelity to Christ, their only Bridegroom. May they cherish the Church as their mother and love the whole world as God's creation, teaching all people to look forward in joy and hope to the good things of heaven. Lord, holy Father, guide the steps of your servants on their pilgrimage through life. When they come at last to the throne of Christ the King; may they not fear Him as their judge, but hear the voice of their Bridegroom lovingly inviting them to the wedding feast of heaven.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**R. Amen.**

## PRESENTATION OF THE RINGS

After the blessing of the Professed, the Celebrant and the people sit. The newly professed rise and come to the Superior General, who moves to the front of the sanctuary. Then the newly professed kneel.

The Superior General places the ring signifying Religious Profession on the finger of each Sister, as she says:

Receive this ring,  
for you are betrothed to the eternal King;  
keep faith with your Bridegroom so that you may come to the wedding feast  
of eternal joy.

The professed reply: Amen.

## STATEMENT OF ADMISSION

The Superior General addresses the newly professed Sisters with the following statement of admission:

We confirm that you are now one with us as members of this Religious Institute of the Religious Sisters of Mercy of Alma, Michigan, sharing all things in common with us now and in the future. Be faithful to the service the Church entrusts to you to be carried out in her name.

The members of the Religious Sisters of Mercy manifest their assent by saying:  
Amen.

The scola chants the *Suscipe*:

### *Suscipe* of Venerable Mother Catherine McAuley

My God, I am Thine for time and eternity, teach me to cast myself entirely into the arms of Thy loving Providence with the most lively, unlimited confidence in Thy compassionate, tender pity. Grant me, O most Merciful Redeemer, that whatever Thou dost ordain or permit may be acceptable to me. Take from my heart all painful anxiety, suffer nothing to sadden me but sin, nothing to delight me but the hope of coming to the possession of Thee, my God and my all, In Thine everlasting Kingdom. Amen.



# LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST



## OFFERTORY HYMN

(CHOIR ONLY)

*Lord I give myself to Thee*

Love, Who didst Thy servant fashion  
After God's similitude  
Love, who of divine compassion  
Hast my fallen state removed.

### **Refrain:**

Love, I give myself to Thee  
Thine, forever Thine to be

Love, before the world's foundation  
Who didst choose me of Thy grace:  
Love who broughtest me salvation,  
Didst restore me to my place.

### **Refrain**

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Ps 34 (33):9

Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed the man who seeks refuge in him.

# COMMUNION HYMN

*CLOTHE YOURSELF WITH JOY AND GLADNESS*

## POST COMMUNION MEDITATION

*OH MOST GRACIOUS VIRGIN MARY*



## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May we be filled with joy, O Lord,  
by today's celebration of a solemn pledge  
and the reverent reception of this divine Sacrament;  
Grant, we pray, in your mercy,  
that this twofold act of devotion  
may stir with burning charity the hearts of your servants  
to serve the Church and the human family.  
Through Christ our Lord.

## SOLEMN BLESSING AT THE END OF MASS

May God, the inspirer of every good resolve, foster your purposes and strengthen  
your hearts, that what you have promised you may keep with persevering faith.

**R. Amen**

May he grant you to hasten in the joy of Christ along the narrow way you have  
chosen,  
rejoicing to bear the burdens of your sisters.

**R. Amen**

May the charity of God make of you a family brought together in the Lord's  
name,  
to show forth the image of the love of Christ.

**R. Amen**

And may almighty God bless all of you,  
who are gathered for these sacred rites,  
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**R. Amen**

# RECESSIONAL HYMN OF PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

## *O GOD BEYOND ALL PRAISING*

O God beyond all praising,  
we worship you today  
and sing the love amazing  
that songs cannot repay;  
for we can only wonder  
at every gift you send,  
at blessings without number  
and mercies without end:  
we lift our hearts before you  
and wait upon your word,  
we honor and adore you,  
our great and mighty Lord.

Then hear, O gracious Savior,  
accept the love we bring,  
that we who know your favor  
may serve you as our king;  
and whether our tomorrows  
be filled with good or ill,  
we'll triumph through our sorrows  
and rise to bless you still:  
to marvel at your beauty  
and glory in your ways,  
and make a joyful duty  
our sacrifice of praise.

Michael Perry (1942 - 1996)  
© Mrs B Perry/Jubilate Hymns

# RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION

Due to COVID restrictions and the policy of the Diocese of Saginaw, Holy Communion will be distributed after the Recessional hymn during the Organ Postlude. Please note that the organ side will proceed to the center aisle and the side of Our Lady will proceed toward the aisle adjacent to the wall. There are green crosses marking the social distancing space of 6 feet. Please allow the person in front of you to advance forward keeping social distance. Remove your mask to receive Holy Communion and then replace it.

## POSTLUDE

(By Organist)



# GUIDELINES FOR RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION

## **For Catholics**

As Catholics, we fully participate in the celebration of the Eucharist when we receive Holy Communion. We are encouraged to receive Communion devoutly and frequently. In order to be properly disposed to receive Communion, participants should not be conscious of grave sin and normally should have fasted for one hour. A person who is conscious of grave sin is not to receive the Body and Blood of the Lord without prior sacramental confession except for a grave reason where there is no opportunity for confession. In this case, the person is to be mindful of the obligation to make an act of perfect contrition, including the intention of confessing as soon as possible (canon 916). A frequent reception of the Sacrament of Penance is encouraged for all.

## **For our fellow Christians**

We welcome our fellow Christians to this celebration of the Eucharist as our brothers and sisters. We pray that our common baptism and the action of the Holy Spirit in this Eucharist will draw us closer to one another and begin to dispel the sad divisions which separate us. We pray that these will lessen and finally disappear, in keeping with Christ's prayer for us "that they may all be one" (Jn 17:21).

Because Catholics believe that the celebration of the Eucharist is a sign of the reality of the oneness of faith, life, and worship, members of those churches with whom we are not yet fully united are ordinarily not admitted to Holy Communion. Eucharistic sharing in exceptional circumstances by other Christians requires permission according to the directives of the diocesan bishop and the provisions of canon law (canon 844 §4). Members of the Orthodox Churches, the Assyrian Church of the East, and the Polish National Catholic Church are urged to respect the discipline of their own Churches. According to Roman Catholic discipline, the Code of Canon Law does not object to the reception of Communion by Christians of these Churches (canon 844 §3).

## **For those not receiving Holy Communion**

All who are not receiving Holy Communion are encouraged to express in their hearts a prayerful desire for unity with the Lord Jesus and with one another.

## **For non-Christians**

We also welcome to this celebration those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ. While we cannot admit them to Holy Communion, we ask them to offer their prayers for the peace and the unity of the human family.



*“Religious life, according to the Council, belongs to the holiness and life of the Church. It is clear how it pertains to the holiness, but it also pertains to the life, so that we must say that without religious life, the Church would not be full. She would miss an essential part of her vocation. This fact can be spoken of as a title of glory of the religious life, but at the same time, it is a powerful challenge to truly live religious life so that the Church may live in her full light and glory.”*

—Augustine Cardinal Mayer, O.S.B.

**Please continue to wear masks whenever  
social distancing is not possible.**

**Please join us for a reception.**

**You are also welcome to join the Sisters at Holy Hour  
in the Cathedral at 6:00 p.m.**

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