

MERCY OF GOD COMMUNITY - RENEWAL OF VOWS

Community Servant: *Brother/Sister* _____, as Spiritual Director
what do you seek from me and from this congregation?

Spiritual Director: I ask that you, as Community Servant, receive these
brothers/sisters] for renewal of their vows in the Mercy of God
Community.

Community Servant: [*Brother(s)/sister(s)*], is it your desire to renew your vows as a
[*Sister/Brother*] in the Mercy of God Community?

Professed: It is my desire to do so.

Community Servant: You have participated in the life of prayer and service in the
Mercy of God Community. Through this experience, and through
prayer and God's guidance, do you believe that you have been
called to continue in this life of service to Christ in the spirit of
Saint Francis and Saint Clare as a professed member of this
Community?

Professed: I believe I am called to serve Christ as a professed member of the Mercy of
God Community

Community Servant: What is your intention in this life of service and prayer?

Professed: It is my intention

- to live my life in the spirit of St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi;
- to live prayerfully, peacefully and ecumenically;
- to accept all God's children as my brothers and sisters, fostering
love, acceptance, joy and inclusion by my example.

Community Servant: Before God and in the presence of these witnesses, you may offer
your solemn vows.

Professed:

- **I VOW DETACHMENT FROM MATERIAL THINGS**
 - I promise to live my life from this moment using all goods and
possessions God has entrusted to me for the betterment of
creation.
 - I promise to live simply, humbly and in reverence for all life and
for the Earth, our home.
 - I promise to use whatever material things God has placed in my
care wisely, without depriving others.
- **I VOW RESPONSIBLE SEXUALITY**
 - I promise responsible sexuality
 - I promise to strive earnestly and prayerfully for the
transformation of my passions to ennoble my capacity for human
affection into active love for others and complete love for God
 - I promise to devote myself to an intimate, loving relationship
with Christ, from which all my relationships with others flow

- **I VOW OBEDIENCE TO THE MESSAGE OF THE GOSPELS**
 - I promise to study the Holy Scriptures faithfully and regularly, prayerfully opening myself to the transforming love of the Gospel
 - I promise, through prayer and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to discern God's will for me, and with joy and faithfulness, to follow where God leads me without regard to personal cost
 - I promise to live according to the Rule of this community to the best of my ability

If LIFE VOWS have been professed, the Community Servant places the vow ring on the finger of the Life Professed and says:

Community Servant: This ring is an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace, signifying to all your total commitment to Christ, to the Mercy of God Community, and to Christ's church. The form of the circle symbolizes the eternal quality of the vows you have made; made from precious metal, the ring is symbolic of the pure love which has already united your heart with that of our Master Christ. Wear this as a token of your fidelity to your vows in the religious life.

Community Servant: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open and all desires known. Look upon these our [*brothers/sisters*] who in your mercy you have called to this life of prayer and service. Pour into them the fullness of your Spirit so that what they have promised today they may, with your grace, observe faithfully and joyfully to the end. May they perfectly love you and magnify your Holy Name in service to this community and to Christ's church. Grant them patience that the spirit of prayer and devotion will not extinguish, but grow with intensity as their love grows for you. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Community Servant: My [*brother/sister*], may peace, love and wisdom abide with you always.

The Community Servant and the professed embrace!

Community Servant: I embrace you as my [*brother/ sister*] and as my friend.