**Benedictine Oblates of Divine Will**

**Enrollment of Novices**

**Questioning of the Candidates**

**Priest:** Dear brothers and sisters, what do you desire?

**Candidates:** I desire to enter the period of preparation towards becoming a Benedictine Oblate of Divine Will. I consecrate myself to living in Divine Will so that I may one day make my promises of poverty, chastity, obedience and charity.

**Priest:** Praised be Jesus Christ.

**All:** Now and forever.

**Blessing of the Cross of Saint Benedict**

*If the Saint Benedict crosses have not been blessed beforehand, they are blessed as follows:*

**Priest:** Our help is in the name of the Lord.

**All:** Who made heaven and earth.

**Priest:** In the name of God the Father Almighty, + who made heaven and earth, the seas and all that is in them, I exorcise these crosses against the power and attacks of the evil one. May those who wear them earnestly strive to perform good works and be blessed by You with health of soul and body, the grace of a holy life, and remission of the temporal punishment due to sin. May they also, with the help of your merciful love, strive to exercise true charity and justice toward all, so that one day they may appear sinless and holy in your sight. This we ask in the name of the Father + almighty, of His Son + Jesus Christ our Lord, and of the Holy + Spirit the Paraclete.

**All:** Amen.

**Presentation of the Cross of Saint Benedict and Conferral of Religious Name**

*The officiating priest gives each a blessed cross of Saint Benedict, saying:*

Receive this cross of St. Benedict and be reminded of the need to take up your cross daily, following the true King, Christ our Lord. May you thus learn to share with patience in His sufferings so that you may one day share in His heavenly kingdom.

**Candidate:** Amen.

**Priest:** Dear (brother or sister), in order to begin your new life with Jesus, you will be given a new name which the mouth of the Lord will confer. Your name in religion is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of (title) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Final Blessing**

*The officiating priest prays over the newly enrolled Oblate Novices:*

Let us pray.

Listen to our prayers, Lord, as we receive these Oblate Novices into union and affiliation with the Benedictines of Divine Will. We beg you to grant strength and perseverance to these your servants who are eager to serve you, not apart from, but in the world where they live and work, having promised to follow the teachings of Saint Benedict and the Divine Will writings of the Servant of God Luisa Piccarreta as their guide. This we ask, through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.

**Priest:** May the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the Son, + and the Holy Spirit, come down upon you and remain with you forever.

**All:** Amen.