

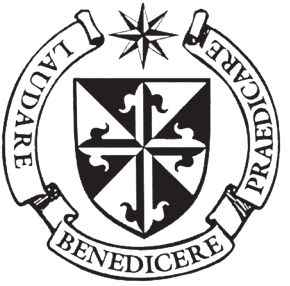
Rite of Electing Superiors

restored according to the principles
of the new liturgical laws

Provisional English Tranlastion

from the original Latin text edited by the authority of the
V. Rev. Fr Br DAMIAN BYRNE
Master of the Order
and published by his command

Friday, June 11, 2010
Priory of St. Thomas Aquinas, Providence, Rhode Island

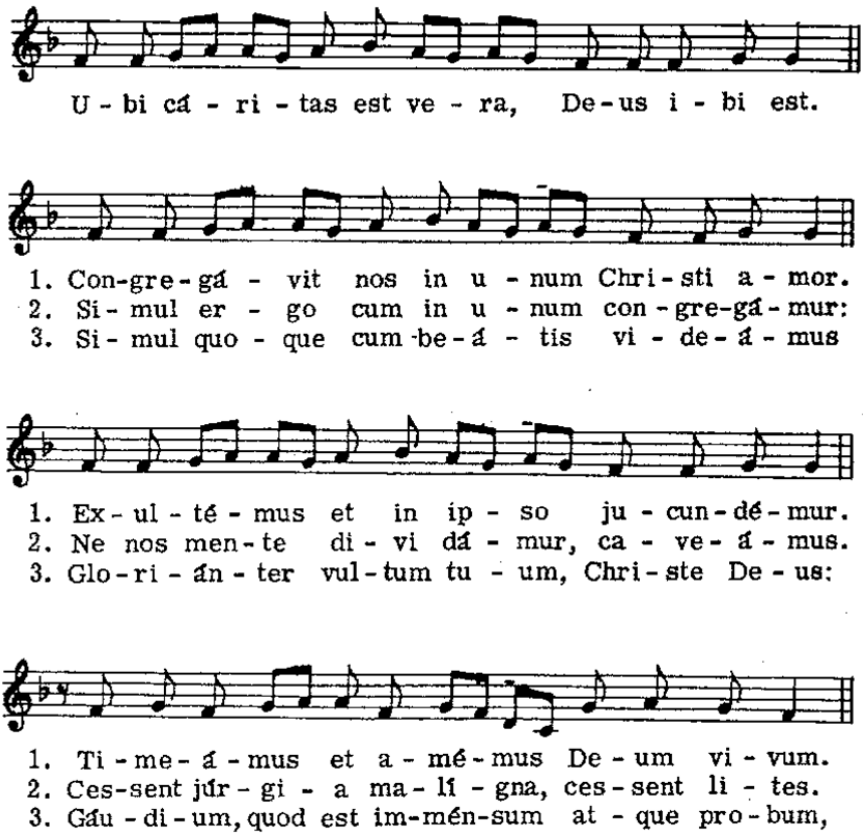

LAUDARE
BENEDICERE
PRAEDICARE

Election of a Prior Provincial

Below are English translations of the relevant excerpts from the Rite of Electing Superiors *issued by the authority of the V. Rev. Fr. Damian Byrne, Master of the Order. The English translations provided here are taken from a provisionsal translation made by the friars of the Province of the Assumption (Australia). The texts from Scripture are taken from the New American Bible.*

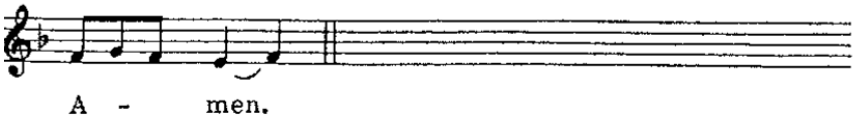
When the Mass of the Holy Spirit is over and the electors have been called together at the time and place which had been determined, the elective session of the chapter may begin with the chanting of an appropriate antiphon, such as the following, or the *Ubi Duro* (see Appendix) or *Where there is Charity and Love*:

UBI CARITAS





Repeat Ubi Caritas *after each verse.*



When the song is finished, the chairman of the chapter greets those present in the customary way and addresses them with a few words, as he deems appropriate.

Reading of the Word of God

Immediately after the chairman's address, it is fitting to have a brief reading of Holy Scripture: either the following text (Phil 2:1-7) , or one chosen *ad libitum* from the Appendix.

Therefore the lector, who will have been designated previously, goes to the lectern for the reading, to which all listen, seated.

A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Phillipians.

If there is any encouragement in Christ, any solace in love, any participation in the Spirit, any compassion and mercy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, with the same love, united in heart, thinking one thing. Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves, each looking out not for his own interests, but (also) everyone for those of others. Have among yourselves the same attitude that is also yours in Christ Jesus, Who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness and found human in appearance.

The Word of the Lord.

When the reading is over, after a suitable silent pause, a responsorial psalm with its verse follows:

R. **The Lord will teach his ways to the gentle.**

Ps. 24, 1-2, 4bc - 5ab 6, 7bc, 8 - 10; (*R.* 9b)

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul,
I trust you, let me not be disappointed. *R.*

Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth and teach me,
for you are God, my saviour.
In you I hope all day long. *R.*

Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old.
In your love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord. *R.*

The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray.
He guides the humble in the right path;
He teaches his way to the poor. *R.*

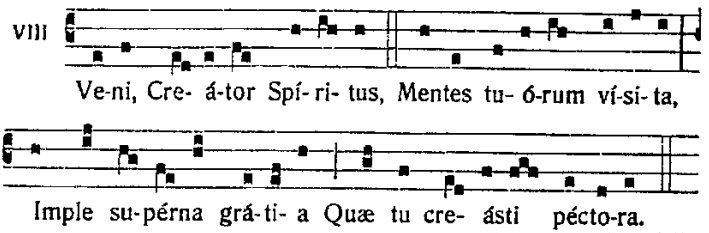
His ways are faithfulness and love
for those who keep his covenant and law.
The Lord's friendship is for those who revere him;
to them he reveals his covenant. *R.*

Another text may be chosen ad libitum from the Appendix.

Invocation of the Holy Spirit

Then, before proceeding to the election, the Holy Spirit is invoked as follows:

Led by the cantor, the hymn Veni, Creator Spiritus *is begun kneeling; all then standing continues the verses alternately:*



(Continued on following page)

Veni, creátor Spíritus,
mentes tuórum vísita,
imple supérna grátia,
quae tu creásti péctora.

Qui díceris Paráclitus,
donum Dei altíssimi,
fons vivus, ignis, cáritas,
et spiritális únctio.

Tu septifórmis munere,
dextrae Dei tu dígitus,
tu rite promíssum Patris
sermóne ditans gúttera.

Accénde lumen sénsibus,
infúnde amórem córdibus,
infírma nostri córporis,
virtúte firmans pérpeti.

Hostem repéllas lóngius,
pacémque dones prótinus,
ductóre sic te práevio
vitémus omne nóxium.

Per te sciámus da Patrem
noscámus atque Fílium,
te utriúsque Spíritum
credámus omni témpore.
Amen.

Come, Holy Ghost, Creator come,
From thy bright heavenly throne,
Come, take possession of our souls,
And make them all our own.

Thou who art called the Paraclete,
Best gift of God above,
The living spring, the living fire,
Sweet unction and true love.

Thou who art sev'nfold in thy grace,
Finger of God's right hand;
His promise teaching little ones
To speak and understand.

O guide our minds with thy blest light,
With love our hearts inflame,
And with thy strength which ne'er decays,
Confirm our mortal frame.

Far from us drive the deadly foe,
True peace unto us bring;
And through all perils lead us safe,
Beneath thy sacred wing.

Through thee may we the Father know,
Through thee th'eternal Son,
And thee, the Spirit of them both,
Thrice-blessed Three in One.
Amen.

(LH II, 812; cf. AG, 530) [Attrib. to Rabanus Maurus, † 856; trans. anon.]

At the end of the chant, the chairman adds:

V. Kyrie eleison
R. Kyrie eleison
V. Christe eleison
R. Christe eleison
V. Kyrie eleison
R. Kyrie eleison

V. Lord, have mercy.
R. Lord, have mercy.
V. Christ, have mercy.
R. Christ, have mercy.
V. Lord, have mercy.
R. Lord, have mercy.

Then all pray for a while in silence. Then the chairman says:

Let us pray.

Cleanse our hearts, O Lord, and make them fruitful, filling them with your grace, and sprinkling them with its delicate dew. [We ask this] through Christ our Lord. ***R.*** **Amen.** *or:*

May the strength of your Holy Spirit be with us, Lord; may it cleanse our hearts with kindness and keep us safe from all evil. [We ask this] through Christ our Lord. ***R.*** **Amen.**

Oath to Fulfil Duties Faithfully and to Preserve Secrecy.

After the invocation of the Holy Spirit, the chairman, scrutineers and secretary swear an oath to fulfil faithfully their duties, and to preserve secrecy concerning the acts of electoral assembly, even after the election, in these [or similar] words:

> **I, Brother *N.*, in accepting the office of [chairman/ scrutineer/secretary] of this chapter, promise that I will faithfully fulfil this duty, and that I will observe secrecy concerning the acts of this electoral assembly, even after the election. So help me God, and these holy Gospels of God, which I touch with my hands.**

After this, the chapter proceeds to the actual election, in our customary way.

AFTER THE ELECTION

Concluding Rite

After the election is completed, all the brethren present in the priory are to be summoned, and the name of the one elected is announced.

Then, according to local custom, the chairman gives the peace to the one elected, if he is present, symbolising the love of all the brethren for him.

Then a short, appropriate reading from sacred scripture is used: e.g. Lk 22: 24 - 32, or another text freely chosen from those given in the Appendix.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Then an argument broke out among them about which of them should be regarded as the greatest. He said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them and those in authority over them are addressed as 'Benefactors'; but among you it shall not be so. Rather, let the greatest among you be as the youngest, and the leader as the servant. For who is greater: the one seated at table or the one who serves? Is it not the one seated at table? I am among you as the one who serves.

It is you who have stood by me in my trials; and I confer a kingdom on you, just as my Father has conferred one on me, that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom; and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

"Simon, Simon, behold Satan has demanded to sift all of you like wheat, but I have prayed that your own faith may not fail; and once you have turned back, you must strengthen your brothers."

The Gospel of the Lord.

After some time in silence, the Responsory *O Spem Miram* may be sung (see Appendix), or another appropriate song.

Then the Vicar provincial, or the chairman of the chapter, if he is not the one elected, (otherwise the senior conventual prior) says:

V. Confirm this, Lord, which you have wrought in us.
R. **From your holy temple in Jerusalem.**

V. The Lord be with you.
R. **And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Almighty God, grant that your servant *N.* whom we have chosen for the government of our souls may be accompanied by the gift of your grace, so that, in your goodness, we may please you in this act of election. [We ask this] through Christ our Lord. ***R.*** **Amen.** *or:* Almighty, ever-living God, you alone do marvellous deeds! Pour out the Spirit of your saving grace upon your servant *N.*, and upon the community committed to his care. May he be pleasing to you in truth; may you always fill him with the blessings of your grace. [We ask this] through Christ our Lord. ***R.*** **Amen.**

Then he says:

V. Our help is in the name of the Lord.
R. **Who made heaven and earth.**

The brethren may then leave, unless the prior or the newly-elect, if he is present, wishes to detain them.

Closing Rites

After the confirmation of the election, and its acceptance, and before he makes any official act, the newly elected and confirmed prior provincial is to make the *Profession of Faith* and *Oath of Fidelity in accepting an Office to be Exercised in the Name of the Church* as soon as possible, using the appropriate formulas laid down by law (cf. infra., nn. 81 - 82). The *Profession of Faith* should be made before the chapter, but the *Oath of Fidelity* privately, before two witnesses.

APPENDICES

I BIBLICAL TEXTS

Readings from the Old Testament

1. Deut 30: 10-14 *The Word is close to you, that you may observe it.*
2. 1 K 8: 55-61. *Blessed be the Lord, who has granted rest to his people.*
3. Is 61: 1-3a *The Lord has anointed me and sent me to bring good news to the poor.*

Readings from the New Testament

1. Ac 1: 14-24, 25a, 26; 2: 42, 44-47a. *They joined in continuous prayer.*
2. Rm 12: 2-3, 16, 17, 19; 13: 8. *Our gifts differ according to the grace given us.*
3. 1 Thess 5: 12-15, 24. *The One who called you is faithful, and he will do it.*

Responsorial Psalms

1. Ps. 79 (80): 2ac & 3b; 5 -7; (*R.* 4b) *O shepherd of Israel, hear us...*
   R. Let your face shine on us, and we shall be saved.
2. Ps. 88 (89): 4 -5; 21-22, 25, 27; (*R. cf.* 2a) *With my chosen one I have made a covenant.*
   R. I will sing forever of your love, O Lord.
3. Ps. 122 (123), 1 - 2 (*R. cf.* 2cd) *To you have I lifted up my eyes.*
   R. Our eyes are always on the Lord.
4. Ps 132 (133): 2 - 3, (*R. cf.* 1) *How good and how pleasant it is...*
   R. How good and how pleasant it is when brothers live in unity!

Gospels

1. Mt. 20: 25-28 *Whoever wants to be first among you must be your servant.*
2. Jn 4: 37 - 38 36. *There is one who sows, and another who reaps.*
3. Jn 4: 33 - 38 *My food is to do the will of the one who sent me.*
4. Jn 10: 1 - 2; 7; 9 - 10; 14a; 15b; 18b *The good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep.*
5. Jn 15: 8, 15 - 16; 20 *I chose you, and commissioned you to bear fruit.*

II PROFESSION OF FAITH

I, *N.*, with firm faith believe and profess everything that is contained in the Symbol of faith: namely:

I believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen. I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not made, one in Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation, he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

With firm faith, I also believe everything contained in the Word of God, whether written or handed down in Tradition, which the Church, either by a solemn judgement or by the ordinary and universal Magisterium, sets forth to be believed as divinely revealed.

I also firmly accept and hold each and everything definitively proposed by the Church regarding teaching on faith and morals.

Moreover, I adhere with religious submission of will and intellect to the teachings which either the Roman pontiff or the College of Bishops enunciate when they exercise their authentic Magisterium, even if they do not intend to proclaim these teachings by a definitive act.

III. OATH OF FIDELITY ON ASSUMING AN OFFICE TO BE EXERCISED IN THE NAME OF THE CHURCH

I, *N.*, in assuming the office of Prior Provincial, promise that in my words and in my actions I shall always preserve communion with the Catholic Church.

With great care and fidelity I shall carry out the duties incumbent on me toward the Church, both universal and particular, in which, according to the provisions of the law, I have been called to exercise my service.

In fulfilling the charge entrusted to me in the name of the Church, I shall hold fast to the deposit of faith in its entirety; I shall faithfully hand it on and explain it, and I shall avoid any teachings contrary to it.

I shall foster the common discipline of the entire Church and I shall insist on the observance of all ecclesiastical laws, especially those contained in the Code of Canon Law.

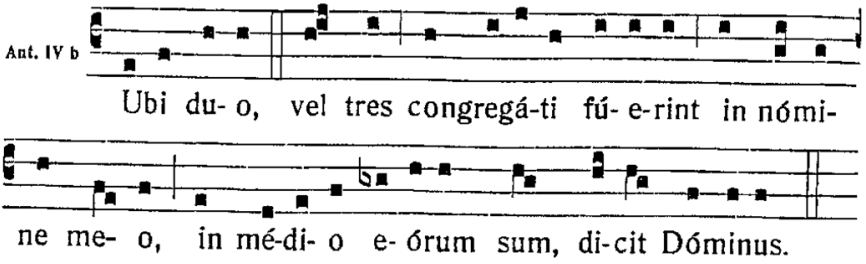
With Christian obedience I shall follow what the Bishops, as authentic doctors and teachers of the faith, declare, or what they, as those who govern the Church, establish, I shall also - with due regard for the character and purpose of my institute - faithfully assist the diocesan Bishops, so that the apostolic activity, exercised in the name and by mandate of the Church, may be carried out in communion with the Church.

So help me God, and God's Holy Gospels on which I place my hand.

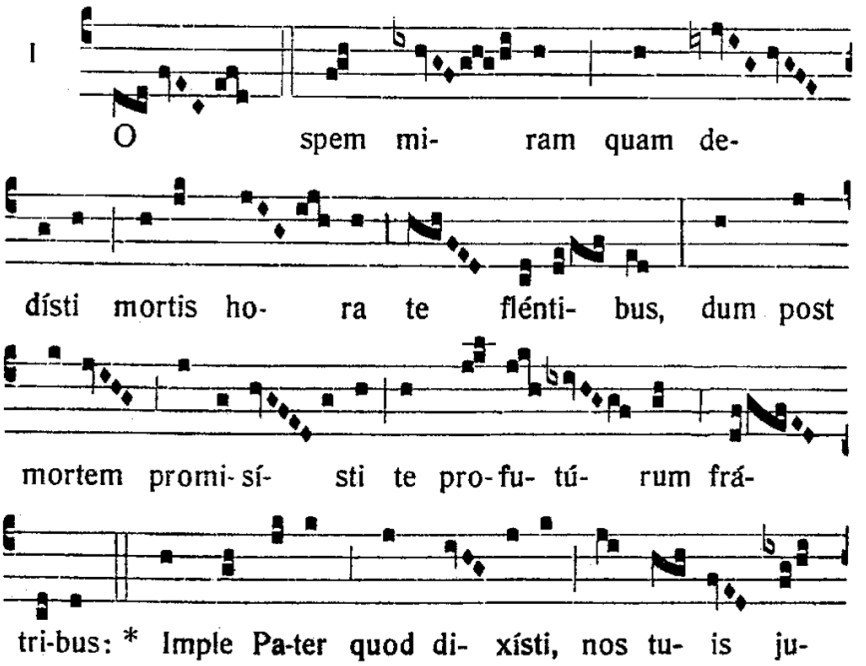
IV. CHANTS

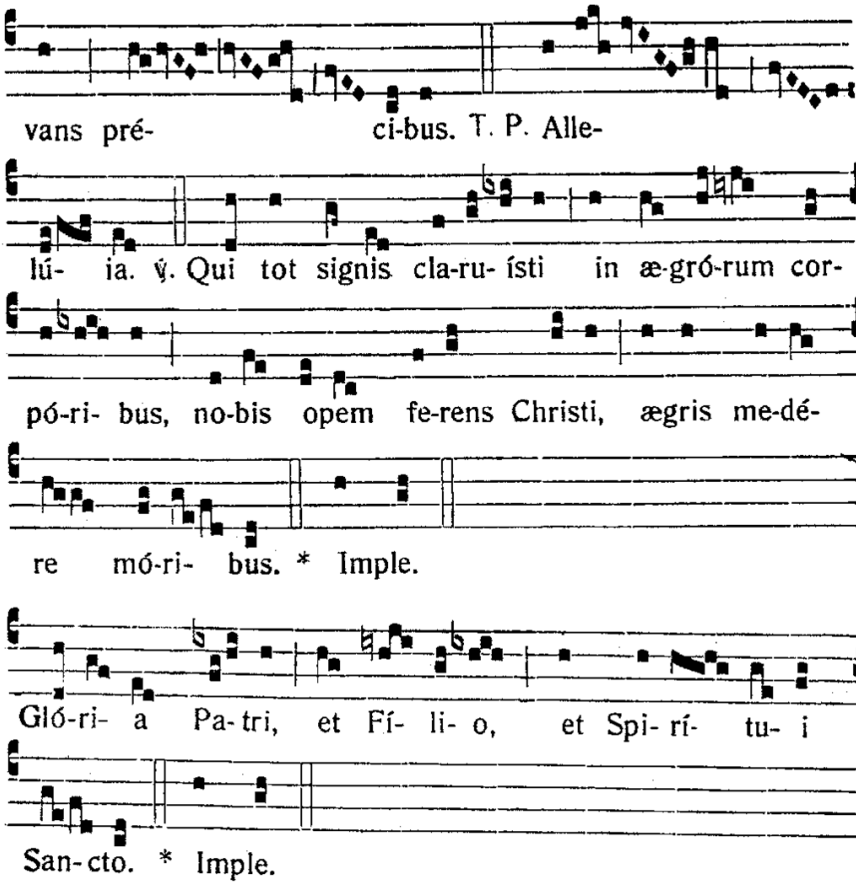
Ubi duo vel tres congregati fuerint

The *Ubi Duro* may be sung in place of the *Ubi Caritas.*



O Spem Miram




vans pré- ci-bus. T. P. Alle-
lú- ia. ℣. Qui tot signis cla-ru- ísti in æ-gró-rum cor-
pó-ri- bus, no-bis opem fe-rens Christi, ægris me-dé-
re mó-ri- bus. * Imple.
Gló-ri- a Pa- tri, et Fí- li- o, et Spi- rí- tu- i
San- cto. * Imple.

Order of Friars Preachers
Province of Saint Joseph



Dominican Provincial Office • 141 East 65th Street • New York, NY 10021
www.op-stjoseph.org