

The Rite of the Election of the Steward Guardian | September 30, 2026

OPENING HYMN

Where Charity and Love Prevail



1. Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail,
2. With grate - ful joy and ho - ly fear
3. For - give we now each oth - er's faults
4. Let strife a - mong us be un - known,
5. Let us re - call that in our midst
6. No race nor creed can love ex - clude



There God is ev - er found; Brought here to - geth - er
God's char - i - ty we learn; Let us with heart and
As we our faults con - fess; And let us love each
Let all con - ten - tion cease; Be God's the glo - ry
Dwells God's be - got - ten Son; As mem - bers of his
If hon - ored be God's name; Our fam - i - ly em -



by Christ's love, By love are we thus bound.
mind and soul Now love God in re - turn.
oth - er well In Chris - tian ho - li - ness.
that we seek, Be ours God's ho - ly peace.
bod - y joined, We are in Christ made one.
brac - es all Whose Fa - ther is the same.

Text: *Ubi caritas*; tr. by Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997
Tune: CHRISTIAN LOVE, CM; Paul Benoit, OSB, 1893–1979
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ENTRANCE

Bishop + O God, come to our assistance!
People **O Lord, make haste to help us!**

Bishop Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
People **As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Bishop Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Community of the Mother of Jesus, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose the Steward Guardian for this Community, that we may receive a faithful Steward

Guardian, who will serve us in the spirit of our Founder, and according to our Rule, and equip us to serve the neighbors who are in need; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen!**

THE ELECTION

The Bishop Visitor questions each elector individually.

Bishop In obedience to Mary's Way of Discipleship, and the requirements of the Constitution that governs the Community of the Mother of Jesus, do you solemnly swear that you will faithfully follow the wisdom of the Holy Spirit and cast your ballots for the good of this Christian Community?

Elector I do so solemnly swear.

Bishop Ballots for the Office of Steward Guardian will now be distributed.

The ballots are distributed.

Bishop Please now cast your ballot for the Office of Steward Guardian of the Community of the Mother of Jesus.

After the ballots have been cast.

Bishop Please collect the ballots.

The ballots are collected and handed to those who count them to be read aloud and tallied.

S. of Study Sufficient/insufficient for election.

If no candidate receives eleven votes, another ballot is cast. At the beginning of each round, the Bishop Visitor calls for the ballots to be distributed, etc, as above.

If after five rounds, no candidate has received the required eleven votes, the Community stands and asks the retiring Steward Guardian to vote on behalf of the entire community for the person to be elected as the new Steward Guardian.

The Community requests

Brother Stephen, as our Steward Guardian, we ask that you select for us, the member of our Community to serve as our next Steward Guardian, and your successor.

Br. Stephen In obedience to the will of the Holy Spirit, I cast the ballots of this Community for the position of Steward Guardian for "X".

THE CONFIRMATION OF THE STEWARD GUARDIAN-ELECT

After the Steward Guardian has been elected, the Bishop Visitor calls the new Steward Guardian to the front of the assembly.

Bishop Would the Steward Guardian-elect come before this assembly.

The Bishop Visitor addresses the Steward Guardian-Elect.

Bishop Do you accept this Community's election of you as the new Steward Guardian of the Community of the Mother of Jesus.

S. Guardian-Elect

I accept the election to become the new Steward Guardian and successor of Br. Stephen.

Bishop Will you lead the Community of the Mother of Jesus in obedience to Mary's Way of Discipleship, and according to the Constitution and Acts of this Community, and in faithfulness to the charism of the Founder, Br. Stephen?

S. Guardian-Elect

I will with the help of the Holy Spirit.

If the new Steward Guardian is only in annual vows, then at the profession liturgy that follows they profess final vows.

THE PRESENTATION

Bishop I present to you, your new Steward Guardian, who will assume this office this Friday afternoon.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Bishop Let us pray for our new Steward Guardian:

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed art thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

People **Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.**

Vicar May Jesus and his dear Mother be with us on our journey.

People **May Jesus and his dear Mother be with us on our journey.**

CLOSING HYMN

446 | *Praise to the Holiest in the Height*

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in the key of D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a corresponding five-part text. The first system covers the first two lines of the hymn, the second system covers the next two lines, and the third system covers the final line. The music features various musical notations including eighth notes, quarter notes, and half notes, with some lines ending in a double bar line.

1 Praise to the Ho - liest in the height, and in the
 2 O lov - ing wis - dom of our God! When all was
 3 O wis - est love! that flesh and blood, which did in
 4 and that the high - est gift of grace should flesh and
 5 Praise to the Ho - liest in the height, and in the

1 depth be praise; in all his words most
 2 sin and shame, a sec - ond Ad - am
 3 Ad - am fail, should strive a - fresh a -
 4 blood re - fine: God's pres - ence and his
 5 depth be praise; in all his words most

1 won - der - ful, most sure in all his ways!
 2 to the fight and to the res - cue came.
 3 gainst the foe, should strive, and should pre - vail;
 4 ve - ry self, and es - sence all - di - vine.
 5 won - der - ful, most sure in all his ways!

Words: John Henry Newman (1801-1890), alt. Music: *Newman*, Richard Runciman Terry (1865-1938).