

DICASTERY FOR THE DOCTRINE OF THE FAITH

PROCEDURE FOR THE RECONCILIATION OF PRIESTS COMING FROM THE PRIESTLY SOCIETY OF SAINT PIUS X

The procedure followed by the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, effective from **1 July 2026**, provides that if a priest who has decided to leave the Priestly Society of Saint Pius X, and who is willing to accept the Second Vatican Council and the legitimacy of the *Novus Ordo Missae*, while remaining attached to the *usus antiquior*, wishes to be reconciled, he must:

1. Find an Ordinary (Diocesan Bishop, Major Superior of a clerical religious institute of pontifical right, or of a clerical society of apostolic life of pontifical right, etc.) who is willing to receive him **ad experimentum** (on a trial basis).
2. Personally handwrite a letter to the Holy Father in which he introduces himself and requests the remission of the censures incurred because he received ordination from a bishop who had been excommunicated or who acted irregularly, although he himself was validly and lawfully ordained, and subsequently entered the Priestly Society of Saint Pius X.
3. Attach his certificate of priestly ordination.
4. Attach the **Profession of Faith** and the **Formula of Adhesion**, dated and signed (cf. Attachments A–B).
5. Send to the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, through the Ordinary, the three documents mentioned above. In the accompanying letter, the Ordinary should express his willingness to receive the priest **ad experimentum** into his Diocese or Institute.

Once the Dicastery has received the three documents from the Ordinary, it will prepare the **Rescript remitting the censures**, which will be signed by the Prefect and the Secretary of the Doctrinal Section.

The Dicastery will send this Rescript to the Ordinary together with a covering letter authorising him to receive the priest for a trial period of **not less than one year and not more than three years**, at the conclusion of which the priest may proceed to incardination.

It has recently been decided that, should the trial period not prove successful, the Ordinary is to return the Rescript to the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith together with a report explaining the reasons why incardination did not take place.

DICASTERY FOR THE DOCTRINE OF THE FAITH

PROCEDURE FOR THE RECONCILIATION OF CERTAIN LAY FAITHFUL COMING FROM THE PRIESTLY SOCIETY OF SAINT PIUS X

This procedure concerns the question of the degree of imputability or subjective responsibility of lay faithful who have formally adhered to and regularly attended the Priestly Society of Saint Pius X and who now seek to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church.

The imposition of a penalty upon lay persons for belonging to the Priestly Society of Saint Pius X cannot be presumed automatically but must be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Since imputability requires deliberate awareness and consent, examples of demonstrable imputability may include:

1. Lay persons who are members of the Third Order of the Priestly Society of Saint Pius X;
2. Lay persons who regularly participate in the celebrations of the Priestly Society of Saint Pius X while formally sharing its doctrinal positions.

Conversely, the following are not to be regarded as imputable:

3. Lay persons who attended the Priestly Society of Saint Pius X solely for liturgical or spiritual reasons;
4. Lay persons who, although aware of tensions with the Holy See, do not reject the Magisterium or the authority of the Roman Pontiff.

The procedure to be followed for those lay faithful of the Priestly Society of Saint Pius X upon whom a penalty has been imposed and who seek full communion with the Catholic Church requires a formal act of full adherence to Catholic doctrine and to the hierarchical structure of the Church, under the jurisdiction of the local Ordinary, who is the guarantor of the unity of the particular Church.

Therefore, a lay faithful falling under numbers **1–2**, who has decided to leave the Priestly Society of Saint Pius X, must:

- Present to the local Ordinary the **Profession of Faith** and the **Formula of Adhesion**, dated and signed (cf. Attachments A–B).

Once this documentation has been received, the local Ordinary shall receive the lay faithful at a time and in a manner that he considers appropriate, making use, for example, of the **Rite of Reception into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church of Those Already Validly Baptised**, suitably adapted.

With regard to the lay faithful described in numbers **3–4**, it is sufficient for them simply to approach a priest who is in full communion with the Church, having decided not to attend the Priestly Society of Saint Pius X in the future.

ATTACHMENT A

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I, _____,

with firm faith believe and profess everything that is contained in the Symbol of Faith, namely:

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day 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, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to 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 by Tradition, which the Church proposes for belief as divinely revealed, whether by solemn judgment or by her ordinary and universal Magisterium.

I firmly accept and hold each and every teaching definitively proposed by the Church concerning 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 them by a definitive act.

Place _____

Date _____

Signature _____

ATTACHMENT B

FORMULA OF ADHESION

I, _____,

promise fidelity to the Catholic Church and to the Roman Pontiff, Supreme Pastor of the Church, Vicar of Christ, Successor of Blessed Peter in his primacy and Head of the College of Bishops, abstaining from any public declaration contrary either to his person or to his Magisterium (cf. canons 1373 and 1365 CIC).

I accept the doctrine contained in no. 25 of the Dogmatic Constitution *Lumen Gentium* of the Second Vatican Council concerning the Church's Magisterium and the assent due to its teaching. With regard to certain doctrines taught by the Second Vatican Council, or concerning the subsequent liturgical and canonical reforms, which may appear difficult in light of previous magisterial statements, I undertake to follow a positive line of interpretation of the doctrine under the guidance of the Church's Magisterium, so that no rupture with the Church's sacred doctrinal patrimony may be presumed.

I also declare that I accept the validity of the Sacrifice of the Mass and of the Sacraments celebrated with the intention of doing what the Church does and according to the rites found in the typical editions of the Roman Missal and the Rituals promulgated by Supreme Pontiffs Paul VI and John Paul II.

Finally, I promise to adhere to the common discipline of the Church and to her laws, especially those contained in the **Code of Canon Law** promulgated by Supreme Pontiff John Paul II.

All of these things I subscribe with my own hand.

Place _____

Date _____

Signature _____