

Script for final profession video

Audio is in black **notes of action are in red.**



1. Introduction- some views of the early part of the mass

Today you are going to see a rather special mass where a young man commits his whole life to God.

He will promise to live chaste, poor, and obedient for the rest of his life.

His name is Martin Paul, a member of the British Province of the Salesians.

Martin has been preparing for this day for over six years.

He has lived in a community, worked with young people; learnt how to pray and to meditate, and to live alongside his Salesian brothers with maturity.

Today you will see him surrender his life to a vocation for your young people.

There is no going back on this: today he will make his vows forever

We call this ceremony Martin's perpetual profession.

To start with the mass goes on as normal with readings and prayers.

Then after the Gospel things change.

Provincial at his chair

The candidate for perpetual profession, Martin, is called by name.

The provincial then asks him what he asks of God and the church.

This is what they say ...

Replies of candidate followed by the prayer

After the homily Martin shares a conversation with the provincial who needs to check that he really is ready, mature enough and clear enough about what he is doing. He asks if Martin is prepared to work with loving kindness for the young, to share his life and work with his brothers in community and to stay close to God who called him to Salesian life.

Let's listen in to this conversation ...

Examination and dialogue

The invitation to pray the litany

5 The provincial, now he is satisfied that Martin's intentions are strong and clear, invites everyone to pray for those who will make their vows. He also calls upon Mary and all the saints to join our prayers. The whole church past and present gathers around Martin as he lies on the ground.

Martin lays on the floor as a sign of his total openness to the power of God's love and his surrender to the mystery of God's presence at the centre of his life.

Litany is sung and all kneel

The Candle

6 A candle is now presented to the candidate by the provincial who reminds him that this celebration is part of a journey with God that began in Baptism. The candle is lit from the Easter candle to remind Martin that that he is following in the steps of the risen Jesus through challenges and difficulties that will lead to new life.

The candle exchange

Statement of Profession

7 Next comes the solemn statement of profession. Two Salesians stand by Martin as a support and as witnesses to this moment when he gives his life to God and to young people through vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. In his words Martin speaks directly to God as his Father, promises to keep his vows and asks for others to help him do that for the rest of his life.

Listen to what Martin says ...

Solemn act of profession

The hands

8 The extending of hands over a person is an ancient Christian symbol and an important part of the profession

The Provincial invites Martin to kneel in front of him so that he can extend his hands over his head in blessing. This is a sign of the holy spirit and a sign that Martin has been set apart, or consecrated, for the service of youth in a religious community as a Salesian of Don Bosco.

Solemn Blessing

The Cross

9. Fr Provincial now presents Martin with a cross on which the image of the good shepherd is found. This image of Jesus reminds Martin that he is to be a good shepherd to the young people he works with: guiding them safely, protecting them from harm and knowing each one by name. It is a reminder of the way that St John Bosco worked with the young as the founder of the Salesian order in the church.

Presentation of the cross

Then mass follows its usual course until the final blessing when the Martin stands again and the provincial pronounces a solemn blessing that comes in 4 parts.

The Blessing

Concluding comments

So that it is it. Martin is now committed for the rest of his life to live in community with vows of poverty, living simply with as few possessions as he needs to do his work; to keep chaste, not developing any sexual relationships and giving himself in loving kindness to those for whom he works. He has promised lifelong obedience to the Gospel and the Salesian rule of life. He is now free to follow Jesus in community, in youth ministry and in a deep personal love for God's presence at the centre of his life. He is now ready to awaken the mystery of God's presence in the lives of young people.

This path of life is not for everyone, but it is a joyful choice. Those who embrace this life are generally happy, fulfilled and deeply connected to their brothers in community. Together they form part of a worldwide family at the service of young people. They have chosen a path of deep meaning, a path of optimism and path that leads into the very heart of the mystery of God