

ST JOSEPH'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY
RITE OF TEMPORARY OATH

1. Calling of the Candidates

Candidates stand in front before the altar
--

After the Gospel all sit.

*The deacon calls the candidates for Temporary Membership by name.
Each answers **I am present**, and comes forward to stand in the front.*

2. Presentation of the Candidates

The Rector addresses the presider in these or similar words:

Dear Father, I have the joy of presenting to you these candidates for Temporary Membership in our Society. After consultation with our members in their home areas and in this house, as well as their fellow students, they have been accepted by the Formation Staff and the General Council.

The presider then asks them in these or similar words:

Dear brothers, what do you ask of God and of His Holy Church?

The candidates reply together:

We ask for God's merciful love, and for the grace of serving him more perfectly, as members of St Joseph's Missionary Society.

All answer: **Thanks be to God.**

3. Homily

Candidates sit

All sit.

4. Interrogation

Presider stands

Candidates stand

After the homily those to take the Perpetual Oath stand, and the presider questions them on their readiness to dedicate themselves to God as missionaries of St Joseph's Society.

Is it your desire to consecrate your whole life to the service of God as members of St Joseph's Missionary Society?

Yes, this is our desire.

Do you promise to live in humility and obedience, and to prepare yourselves for the Apostolic Life according to the Constitutions of St Joseph's Missionary Society?

Yes, we promise so to do.

Is it your desire to be admitted into St Joseph's Missionary Society and to take the Temporary Oath?

Yes, such is our desire, by the grace of God.

May God who has begun the good work in you, bring it to fulfilment before the day of Christ Jesus.

All: Amen.

5. Prayer for God's Grace

The presider then prays for God's help, saying:

Let us pray.

Lord, look upon these servants of yours
who are resolved to dedicate their lives to you
as missionaries of your Kingdom.

Mercifully grant that their manner of life
may bring glory to your name
and further your loving plan of redemption
among all the peoples of the world.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

6. Recitation of Temporary Oath

After the prayer, the candidates kneel and recite, each individually, the formula of the Temporary Oath.

Candidates kneel

I _____ from the Diocese of _____,
in the presence of the Most Blessed Trinity,
of Mary, the Virgin Mother of God,
of Saint Joseph, our Patron and all the Saints,
publicly declare before you, father, and this community,
that it is my sincere desire to follow Christ as a Missionary.

I solemnly consecrate myself under oath
for three years to this Apostolic work
as a member of St Joseph's Missionary Society.
I also promise obedience to the General Superior
in accordance with the Constitutions of the Society.

Each comes forward, and placing his hands on the book of the Gospels, says:

Presider sits

Candidates stand,
come forward and
kneel in front of
the Presider

So help me God and these his holy Gospels.

After this they all recite together:

**We shall try to be like Christ,
messengers of the Good News,
and to spread the kindness and love
of God our Saviour.**

**We are ready to leave our home countries
and give up the security of bonds
with our families and friends.**

**We shall endeavour to become men of prayer,
and become ever more familiar
with the life and teaching of Christ,
and to live a total availability
to the communities to which we are sent.**

**We trust with the help of God's grace,
to be able to carry out our resolve
and ask all here present,
and all the members of St Joseph's Missionary Society,
for their prayers and moral support.**

7. Acceptance of the Oath by the Presider

The presider now says in these or similar words:

All stand

I declare that you are accepted as Temporary Members
of St Joseph's Missionary Society
and welcome you into our Apostolic community.
I sincerely hope and pray
that you will remain faithful to the commitment
you have undertaken
for the sake of the Kingdom.

8. Blessing and Presentation of the Crosses

*The presider blesses the crosses presents them to each of the candidates,
saying:*

Receive this cross as an outward sign
of your inner dedication to the Kingdom of God.

9. Presentation of the Constitutions

*The presider presents a book of the Constitutions to each of the candidates,
saying:*

Receive these Constitutions of St Joseph's Missionary Society.
Study them and practice them
so that you will be ready to become a Perpetual Member
of St Joseph's Missionary Society.

10. Signing of the Oath

*The candidates now proceed to the altar for the signing of the Oath.
After this they all return to their places in the chapel.
The Liturgy continues with the Bidding Prayers.*