



**THE ROMAN RITUAL**  
**RENEWED BY DECREE OF**  
**THE MOST HOLY SECOND ECUMENICAL COUNCIL OF THE VATICAN**  
**AND PROMULGATED BY AUTHORITY OF POPE PAUL VI**

# **THE ORDER OF PENANCE**

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**ENGLISH TRANSLATION ACCORDING  
TO THE TYPICAL EDITION**

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**For Use in the Dioceses of the United States of America**

**Approved by the  
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops  
and Confirmed by the Apostolic See**



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# THE ORDER FOR RECONCILING INDIVIDUAL PENITENTS

## THE RECEPTION OF THE PENITENT

41. When the penitent comes to confess his (her) sins, the Priest welcomes him (her) with kindness and greets him (her) with friendly words.

42. Then the penitent and, if appropriate, the Priest as well, sign themselves with the Sign of the Cross, saying:

**In the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

The Priest invites the penitent to have trust in God, in these or similar words:

**May God, who has shone his light in our hearts  
grant that you may truly know your sins  
and his mercy.**

The penitent replies:

Amen.

Other optional texts, nos. 67-71.

## THE READING OF THE WORD OF GOD (OPTIONAL)

43. Then, if appropriate, the Priest reads or recites from memory a text of Sacred Scripture in which God's mercy is announced and people are called to conversion.

The texts are found at nos. 72-84.

## THE CONFESSION OF SINS AND THE ACCEPTANCE OF SATISFACTION

44. Next, the penitent confesses his (her) sins, after first saying, where it is the custom, a general formula for confession (e.g., I confess to almighty God).

**FIRST EXAMPLE**

**“Love is the fullness of the law”**

**FIRST READING**

Deuteronomy 5:1-3, 6-7, 11-12, 16-21a; 6:4-6

*Love the Lord your God with all your heart.*

A reading from the Book of Deuteronomy

**M**oses summoned all Israel and said to them,  
“Hear, O Israel, the statutes and decrees  
which I proclaim in your hearing this day,  
that you may learn them and take care to observe them.  
The LORD, our God, made a covenant with us at Horeb;  
not with our fathers did the LORD make this covenant,  
but with us, all of us who are alive here this day.”

He said:

“I, the LORD, am your God,  
who brought you out of the land of Egypt,  
that place of slavery.

You shall not have other gods beside me.

‘You shall not take the name of the LORD, your God, in vain.  
For the LORD will not leave unpunished  
him who takes his name in vain.

‘Take care to keep holy the sabbath day  
as the LORD, your God, commanded you.

‘Honor your father and your mother,  
as the LORD, your God, has commanded you,  
that you may have a long life and prosperity in the land  
which the LORD, your God, is giving you.

‘You shall not kill.

‘You shall not commit adultery.

‘You shall not steal.

## THE ORDER FOR RECONCILING SEVERAL PENITENTS WITH GENERAL CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

60. For reconciling several penitents with general confession and absolution, in the cases provided for in the law, everything is done as described above for a celebration for reconciling several penitents with individual confession and absolution, with the following changes only.

### INSTRUCTION

After the Homily, or in the Homily itself, the faithful who wish to receive general absolution should be instructed that they should be properly disposed, that is, each one should repent of his (her) transgressions and resolve to abstain from these sins, to intend to make reparation for any scandal and harm he (she) may have caused, and also to resolve to confess individually at the proper time each of the grave sins that cannot now be confessed. In addition, some satisfaction (an act of penance) to be performed should be proposed to all, to which each individual may add something if he (she) desires.

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### GENERAL CONFESSION

61. Then a Deacon or other minister or the Priest himself invites the penitents who wish to receive absolution to indicate this by some kind of sign. For example:

**Let those who now wish to receive sacramental absolution kneel and make the general confession.**

**Or:**

**Let those who now wish to receive sacramental absolution bow down and make the general confession.**

The penitents say a formula for general confession (e.g., I confess to almighty God), after which, a litany or appropriate liturgical song may occur, as described above for reconciling several penitents with individual confession and absolution (no. 54). At the end, the Lord's Prayer is always added.

## BIBLICAL READINGS

The readings proposed here have been selected for the benefit of pastors and the faithful. For diversity, and according to the special nature of the assembly, other readings may be chosen.

### READINGS FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

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