

A PRIEST'S PRAYER BEFORE HEARING CONFESSIONS

O Lord, give me wisdom to assist me when I am in the confessional, so that I know how to judge your people with justice and your poor with good sense. Grant that I use the keys of the kingdom of heaven so that I do not open it to anyone who merits that it be closed and not close it to one who deserves that it to be opened. Grant that my intention be pure, my zeal sincere, my love patient and my ministry fruitful.

That I be gentle but not weak, that my seriousness be not severity, and that I not despise the poor nor flatter the rich. Teach me to be affable in comforting sinners, prudent in asking questions and experienced in instructing them.

Give me the grace to be able to remove them away from evil, make me diligent in confirming them in good; that I help them to be better with the maturity of my answers and the correctness of my advice; that I enlighten what is dark, be wise in complex matters and victorious in the difficult ones; that I not delay in unnecessary conversation nor let myself be influenced by what is corrupt lest saving others I lose myself. Amen.

A PRIEST'S PRAYER AFTER HEARING CONFESSIONS

Lord Jesus Christ, sweet lover and sanctifier of souls, I pray that by the infusion of your Holy Spirit You purify my heart of all feelings or bad thoughts and make up with your infinite compassion and mercy for everything in my ministry that because of my ignorance or negligence could be cause of sin. To your most precious wounds I entrust all the souls that You have led to penance and sanctified with your most precious Blood, and pray that you keep them all in holy fear of You and save them with your love, support them every day with greater virtues and lead them to everlasting life. You who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, receive my ministry as an offering for that most worthy love with which You pardoned saint Mary Magdalene and all the sinners who had recourse to You, and make up and satisfy whatever I have done in a negligent way or with less dignity in the celebration of this sacrament. I entrust to your Sacred Heart each and every one of those I have confessed and ask You to keep them and preserve them from any relapse and lead us after the miseries of this life to eternal happiness. Amen.

PROMEMORIA FOR THE CONFESSOR

1- *Latae sententiae* excommunications reserved to the Holy See

- a) Profanation of the Eucharistic species (can. 1367)
- b) Direct violation of the sacramental seal (can. 1388 § 1)
- c) Absolution of an accomplice in a sin against the Sixth Commandment of the Decalogue (can. 1378 § 1) INVALID except in danger of death (can. 977)
- d) Physical force against the Roman Pontiff (can. 1370)
- e) Consecration/reception of a Bishop without a pontifical mandate (can. 1382)
- f) Attempted ordination of a woman and attempted reception of Sacred Orders by a woman (SST, art. 5, n. 1).

2- Reserved sins of the faithful of the Oriental Churches

- a) Direct violation of the sacramental seal (can. 728 § 1 CCEO)
- b) Absolution of ones accomplice in a sin against chastity (can. 728 § 1 CCEO)

Recourse in these cases are to be sent to:

Penitenzieria Apostolica – Palazzo della Cancelleria – 00120 CITTÀ DEL VATICANO

3- *Latae sententiae* excommunications not reserved to the Holy See

a) the procuring of a completed abortion (can. 1398)

- * Essential condition: *effectu secutu*
- * Who is authorized to absolve:
 - also in the external forum: the Bishop, the vicar general (they can delegate)
 - in confession: the canon penitentiary (can. 508 § 1); chaplains in hospitals, prisons, on sea journeys (can. 566 § 2)
 - all others authorized as to established times and ways: *cf. Diocesan norms*

b) for the delicts of apostasy, heresy and schism (can. 1364 § 1)

4- *Latae sententiae* interdict and suspension reserved to the Ordinary for falsely denouncing a confessor of solicitation *ad turpia* (can. 1390 and can. 1387)

Absolution is denied until reparation has been made (cf. can. 982).

- * if it is a lay person or religious: the penalty is a *l.s.* interdict
- * if it is a cleric: the penalty is a *l.s.* interdict and suspension

CONDITIONS FOR INCURRING *LATAE SENTENTIAE* CENSURES (nn. 1-3-4)

- Age: 18 years old
- Awareness, lucidity, freedom
- Awareness of the penal sanction

In absence of even one of these conditions, the penalty is not incurred

URGENT CASES - CAN. 1357 (for the absolution of cases nn. 1-3-4)

When an “urgent case” is discerned any confessor can absolve from the *l.s.* censure of excommunication and interdict or if it is difficult for the penitent to remain in the state of serious sin for the time necessary to obtain forgiveness.

N.B. However in granting the remission the confessor MUST impose on the penitent, under the penalty of reincidence, the obligation of making recourse within a month to the competent superior or to a priest endowed with the faculty and the obligation of obeying his mandates; in the meantime he is to impose a suitable penance and, insofar as it is demanded, reparation. The recourse is best made through the confessor. They should agree upon the time way for the subsequent encounter, so as to receive the decision of the competent superior.

OTHER CASES TO WATCH OUT FOR

- a) A confessor guilty of *sollicitatio ad turpia* (can. 1387)
- b) Irregular and difficult marriage situations (cf CCC, nn. 2382 – 2386)

FORMULA FOR THE REMISSION OF CENSURES

(excommunication or interdict)

**BY VIRTUE OF THE POWER GIVEN TO ME
I ABSOLVE YOU
FROM THE BOND OF EXCOMMUNICATION
(OR INTERDICT)
IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER
AND OF THE SON ✕ AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. AMEN.**

FORMULA FOR THE ABSOLUTION OF SINS

(eventually with the intention of remitting also censures)

**MAY GOD THE FATHER OF MERCY,
WHO HAS RECONCILED THE WORLD TO HIMSELF
BY THE DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF HIS SON,
AND HAS SENT FORTH THE HOLY SPIRIT
FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS,
THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH
GRANT YOU PARDON AND PEACE.
AND I ABSOLVE YOU FROM YOUR SINS
IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER
AND OF THE SON ✕ AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. AMEN.**