

Priest's Prayer Before Hearing Confessions

in Latin and English

ORATIO SACERDOTIS ANTEQUAM CONFESIONES EXCIPIAT

Da mihi, Dómine, sédium tuárum assistricem sapiéntiam, ut sciam iudicáre pópulum tuum in iustítia, et páuperes tuos in iudício. Fac me ita tractáre claves regni caelórum, ut nulli apériam, cui claudéndum sit, nulli claudam, cui aperiéndum.

Sit inténtio mea pura, zelus meus sincérus, cáritas mea pátiens, labor meus fructuósus. Sit in me lénitas non remíssa, aspéritas non sevéra; páuperem ne despícam, díviti ne adúler. Fac me ad alliciéndos peccatóres suávem, ad interrogándos prudéntem, ad instruéndos perítum.

Tríbe, quaeso, ad retrahéndos a malo sollértiam, ad confirmándos in bono sedulitátem, ad promovéndos ad melióra indústriam: in respónsis maturitátem, in consíliis rectitúdinem, in obsúris lumen, in impléxis sagacitátem, in árduis victóriam: inútilibus collóquiis ne detínear, pravis ne contáminer; álios salvem, me ipsum non perdam.

Amen.

PRIEST'S PRAYER BEFORE HEARING CONFESIONS

Grant to me, O Lord, that wisdom seated beside Thy throne, that I may know how to judge Thy people with justice, and Thy poor ones with discernment. Make me so to use the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven, that I may open them to no one upon whom they should be closed, nor close them upon any to whom they should be opened.

May my intention be pure, my zeal sincere, my charity patient, my labor fruitful. Let there be in me a gentleness which is not negligent, a severity which is not harsh; let me not look down on the poor; let me not fawn upon rich. Make me pleasant for attracting sinners, prudent in questioning them, resourceful in directing them.

Grant, I beseech Thee, ingenuity for drawing them back from sin, earnestness in confirming them in good, diligence in urging them to better things: grant me good judgment in responses, rectitude in advice, light in obscure matters, wisdom in complications, victory in adversities: Let me not be detained in useless conversations, let me not be stained by perversities; let me save others, and let me not lose myself.

Amen.