

Affiliate Commitment Ceremony

St. Joseph Monastery

December 12, 2020



Christie Ione Swanson

Maria of the Meek and Humble Heart of Jesus

We rejoice with Christie, our sister in Christ and in His Passion, as she makes her Final Commitment as an Affiliate of our Passionist Monastery. Today's ceremony is a beautiful seal upon the past eleven-and-a-half years of living, praying, working, and loving together, and we look forward to many more years to come, here at the Foot of the Cross.

To those loved ones who braved the pandemic to join us in person, and to all those who join us from afar through the live-stream and through your prayers joined to ours, we extend our gratitude. Your presence in prayer and support of Christie is a witness to your love and your faith in her unique vocation.

Rite of Commitment

The Superior and Affiliate go to the front of the chapel. The Superior stands at the altar steps and the Affiliate stands before her.

Superior: Christie Ione Swanson

Affiliate: Lord, you have called me. Here I am.

Superior: Do you wish to make your Final Commitment as an Affiliate of St. Joseph Monastery of Passionist Nuns?

Affiliate: I do.

Superior: May the grace and mercy of God be with you. As a Passionist Affiliate you have lived the past 11.5 years as a member of our community and have studied our Passionist Rule and Constitutions, according to which you wish to govern and enrich your life as a Christian in accord with your state in life. You know from your years of experience, under what conditions you are about to make your Final Commitment as an Affiliate of St. Joseph Monastery.

Are you ready and willing to commit yourself to follow in the footsteps of St. Paul of the Cross and to live according to the spirit of our five Passionist vows?

Affiliate: I am.

Superior: If you are resolved to remain faithful and persevere in your holy resolution, you may now make your Final Commitment.

The Affiliate reads her Commitment:

I, Christie Ione Swanson, desire and resolve to serve God and Holy Mother Church through my affiliation with this Passionist community of St. Joseph Monastery, and to live the Gospel ethos more intensely. In His presence and in the presence of Mother John Mary and of this monastic community, I renew my Affiliate commitment to promote devotion to and a grateful remembrance of the Passion of Jesus Christ, and to express it in my style of life; and to live in the spirit of chastity, poverty, obedience, and enclosure, in accordance with my state of life and the guidelines set forth for me.

I commit myself to live a life of communion with these Passionist Nuns, while cultivating in my heart a more generous love of God and neighbor.

Through the intercession of our Mother of Sorrows, St. Paul of the Cross, St. Gemma, and all the Passionist saints, may I grow in holiness through fidelity to this commitment and become a more luminous reflection of crucified Love. I ask Your blessing, Jesus, and that of Mother Mary, Mother John Mary, and the entire community, and I pray that this offering of myself will bear abundant fruit for your Kingdom. May the Most Holy Trinity be praised forever. Amen.

The Superior responds:

As Superior of this Monastery of St. Joseph, I now accept your Commitment and admit you into a more profound spiritual union and affiliation with our Passionist Community, and I give you the privilege of sharing in the prayers and good works of the community.

May God strengthen you in your faith. May you persevere in your holy resolution to serve God and the Church in accord with your Guidelines, and in the spirit of our five vows and our Constitutions as lived in St. Joseph Monastery. And may God reward you, according to His promises, with the vision of His glory for all eternity.

Affiliate: Amen.

Both then proceed to the altar, where both sign her commitment formula. It remains there for the remainder of Mass. They then return to the steps of the altar.

Presentation of Insignia

A table is set up in the sanctuary with the ring and crucifix upon it. The Superior places the Passionist ring on the Affiliate's finger, saying:

Superior: Receive this ring, sign of your commitment to Jesus Crucified and to our community. May the eternal Bridegroom keep you faithful to what you have promised Him today.

Affiliate: Amen.

Then the Superior gives her the Affiliate Crucifix:

Superior: Receive this Crucifix, sign of the saving love of your Crucified Spouse. May you follow Him in humility, obedience, and self-denial.

Affiliate: Amen.

Sign of Peace

Christie now shares the sign of peace with the monastic community, then comes to the water channel and shares a gesture of peace to all guests who have joined us for the celebration.

The sign of peace before Communion is omitted.

Special Thanks to...

Celebrant and Homilist – Fr. Lou Caporiccio, CPM

Offertory Procession – Camren and Caelyn Goolsby, Christie's grandchildren

Affiliate Crucifix – donated by Larena Lawson

Poinsettias – donated by Kate Mims