

THE EXPULSION OF EVIL SPIRITS FROM A HOUSE OR DWELLING

For the exorcism of an energumen, as pointed out in the Code of Canon Law (can. 1172) special faculties must be granted by the Ordinary. But this does not seem to apply to the use of a form such as that which is here summarized, since it concerns not prayers over a person but a place. On the other hand, no ceremony of a liturgical character should be performed by private initiative without at least implicit episcopal approval. *The priest wears surplice and stole.*

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.. Amen. P/. Our help is in the name of the Lord.R/. Who made heaven and earth P/. The Lord be with you.R/. And with your spirit Let us pray

Almighty and merciful God, You conferred upon your priests above all others this great grace, that whatever they do worthily and exactly in Your Name, is regarded as being done by you. We pray that in your kindness you may be present wherever we are presence and may bless whomever and whatever we bless. At our lowly request, through the merits of the Blessed Mary ever Virgin, and of your saints, may demons and other unwanted spirits flee and the angel of peace be at hand. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

O God of angels, God of archangels, God of prophets, God of apostles, God of martyrs, God of confessors, God of virgins and of all right-living persons, God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, I call upon You and I humbly invoke Your holy name and the compassion of Your great Majesty, that You will lend me help against every spirit of iniquity, that wherever they may be, when Your name is spoken, they will at once give place and take to flight. Through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

PRAYER OF EXPULSION

I adjure you, O serpent of old, by the judge of the living and the dead; by the Creator of the world who has power to cast into hell that you depart at once from this dwelling. He that commands you, accursed demon, is He that commanded the winds, and the sea and the storm. He that commands you, is He that ordered you to be hurled down from the height of heaven into the lower parts of the earth. He that commands you is He that bade you to depart from Him. Listen, then, Satan and fear! Go, vanquished and cowed, when you are commanded in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will come to judge the living and the dead and all the world by fire. *Amen.*

This is followed by the recitation of the first five of the Gradual Psalms (Ps. 120 to 124) which the priest is to repeat, while he visits every part of the house and sprinkles it with holy water, ending his round with a few versicles as an introduction to this appropriate prayer:

Lord, enter graciously into the home that belongs to You; construct for Yourself an abiding resting-place in the hearts of Your faithful servants, and grant that in this house (*place*) no wickedness or malicious spirits may ever hold sway. Through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The second set of five Gradual Psalms 125-129)are then recited while the priest goes again throughout the entire building, again sprinkling holy water and ending with a different prayer:

O God, almighty and eternal, every place is subject to You Who are present everywhere filling all things. You, who accomplish Your Holy Will, be attentive to our entreaty. Be the protector of this dwelling so that here no evil will have power to resist You but that by the co-operation and help of the Holy Spirit, Your service will come before all, and holy freedom remain inviolate. Through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Then for the third time the whole house is sprinkled, while the five remaining Gradual Psalms (Ps. 130-134) are recited, ending with the following prayer:

O God, you are present in every place subject to you, as guardian and protector, grant us, we pray, that the blessing + on this house may never slacken, and that all of us who join in this petition may deserve the shelter which you graciously afford. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **THE HOLY GOSPEL**
P/.The Lord be with you. R/. *And with your spirit.* P/.A reading from the holy Gospel according to St. Luke (19:1-10):R/.*Glory be to You, O Lord* At that time Jesus came to Jericho and intended to pass through the town. Now a man there named Zacchaeus, who was a chief tax collector and also a wealthy man, was seeking to see who Jesus was; but he could not see him because of the crowd, for he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree in order to see Jesus, who was about to pass that way. When he reached the place, Jesus looked up and said to him, Zacchaeus, come down quickly, for today I must stay at your house. And he came down quickly and received him with joy. When they all saw this, they began to grumble, saying, He has gone to stay at the house of a sinner. But Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord. Behold, half of my possessions, Lord, I shall give to the poor, and if I have extorted anything from anyone I shall repay it four times over. And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house because this man too is a descendant of Abraham.

For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save what was lost.” R/. Praise
be to You, O lord

*Incense is then put into the thurible, the whole house is incensed, and after the prayer, Visita,
quaesumus, Domine, habitationem istam, etc., the priest gives his blessing, once more
sprinkles holy water and then departs.*

This modern English rendition of the original 1631 document is from ***Rituale seu
Manuale Romanum***, Pauli V, Pont. Max. *jussu editum, cum Cantu Toledano, et
aliis quibusdam*. Matriti; ex Typographia Regia. .Anno MDCXXXI, pp. 445-450.

+++++

John H. Hampsch, cmf