

EXPLANATIONS FROM FR. ANTONIO MUNDUATE ON THE RENEWALS OF PROFESSION TO TAKE PLACE DURING THE JUNIORATE

1) The rule of Cor Orans is clear: the first profession is for three years and then renewed year by year until it reaches five years and the Nun makes her perpetual profession (unless the time of temporary vows is prolonged).

2) We must try to understand the reasons behind the new ruling. This has been a topic of discussion in the field of theology of religious life and spirituality. The two options:

- a) profess for several years,
- b) and b) profess year after year.

Both have their positive and negative aspects.

Professing for a long time (three years, for example), manifests better that Consecrated Life is a stable way of life; It helps the religious to live with serenity during the first period of her consecrated life, without the tension of having to renew profession every year. It allows the religious to live with peace and serenity and the fact that even if you have a specific time, in your heart, your choice is for a lifetime.

- The negative aspect is that the religious can make her his new status of life into a comfortable and undemanding life, because she knows that in three years they (the superiors and community) will not bother her, until the renewal arrives.

Professing from year to year forces the religious to live with the tension and demands of her consecration, because if she does not respond properly and grow in maturity, she may not be admitted to the renewal of her profession.

- The negative aspect is that one might live with excessive tension, feeling continuously monitored. It might seem she is living in a prison more than in a convent. This can cause imbalances in the person. Also, renewing year after year might give her the feeling that religious profession is not as important as it really is.

3) ***The decision of the Dicastery***. I think they wanted to integrate the two dimensions. On the one hand, that the first profession will be for a long time, because in this way the religious can assimilate and live with serenity her religious consecration.

Then after the third year, once the religious has already been on a seven-year formation path (since the aspirancy), the decision to renew it year by year (1 + 1) seems to put the religious in the tension of the final stage; it requires a little more effort in the two years prior to his perpetual profession.

Father Antonio said: "This is my interpretation, but as I say it is a topic of discussion and debate, and each of the options has its negative and positive aspects."