

**ENROLMENT, BLESSING & PRESENTATION OF THE
ARCHCONFRATERNITY'S BRONZE MEDAL**

The candidates come before the celebrant and stand together, each with a lighted candle. The celebrant then asks the candidates.

Celebrant: What do you ask of God's church?

Servers: The Blessing of Almighty God and enrolment into the Guild of St. Stephen for Altar Servers.

Celebrant: My dear people, let us pray for those who wish to be enrolled into the Guild of St. Stephen. Let us ask God to bless them. *(pause for silent prayer)* Heavenly Father, bless these servers who have been chosen to be members of the Guild of St. Stephen. Grant that they may be faithful in their service at your Altar, and that they may grow in faith and love. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The celebrant now questions the candidates, who answer together.

Celebrant: Will you try to say the Guild Prayer every day?

Servers: I will, with the help of God.

Celebrant: Will you promise to do your best to serve regularly particularly when you are needed?

Servers: I will, with the help of God.

Celebrant: Will you promise to serve with care and reverence?

Servers: I will, with the help of God

Celebrant: Will you try to understand what you are doing when you serve?

Servers: I will, with the help of God.

The servers, who are to be enrolled, now make their solemn promise together. (it is suggested that the celebrant should invite other servers who are present to renew their own promise at the same time).

Servers: I offer myself to God Almighty / to Blessed Mary, our Mother / and to our Holy Patron, St. Stephen / and I promise to do my best / to serve regularly / with reverence and understanding / for the glory of God / the service of His Church / and my own eternal salvation.

BLESSING OF MEDALS

Celebrant: Blessed are you, Lord of all creation. You have made us in your image and likeness and have placed him over all creation to use it for your glory. We ask you to bless (+) these medals, which your servers will wear as a sign of their service at your Altar.

(the medals are sprinkled with Holy Water)

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

The celebrant goes to the candidates and receives their lighted candle, as a token of offering themselves. The celebrant places a medal round the neck of each server, saying:

Celebrant: (NAME) receive this medal as a token of your admission into the Guild of St. Stephen that, with the help of his prayers, you may lead a good and holy life.

Server: Amen.

The Servers then stand together for the final prayer.

Celebrant: Lord Jesus Christ, you came into this world to serve others, rather than to be served, and showed yourself to St. Stephen in your glory at the right hand of the Father. We ask you to grant your Altar Servers the faith of St. Stephen, as they serve you in the Blessed Sacrament, so that they too come to see you in your glory. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

HYMN TO ST. STEPHEN

Holy Stephen Christ's dear martyr
First to shed your blood for Him
What bright glory now surrounds you
Glory which no time can dim
O that we could share that glory
Give for Him our life and blood
Let us praise your noble story
Told with life's own crimson flood

Noble witness you didst render
To the passion of your Lord
Bearing with a love courageous
Weight of stones more cruel than sword
Mindful of our dying Saviour
Begging mercy in death's throes
You did raise your eyes to heaven
Craving mercy on your foes

Ours it may not be to suffer
Like St. Stephen unto death
But a service we can render
To our last and failing breath
Ours to serve our loving Saviour
Ours to help His sacrifice
Ours to give Him daily homage
Till He calls to Paradise

Ceremony of Enrolment into the Archconfraternity of St. Stephen



**St. Mary's Cathedral Guild
Aberdeen**
(Affiliated February 1960)