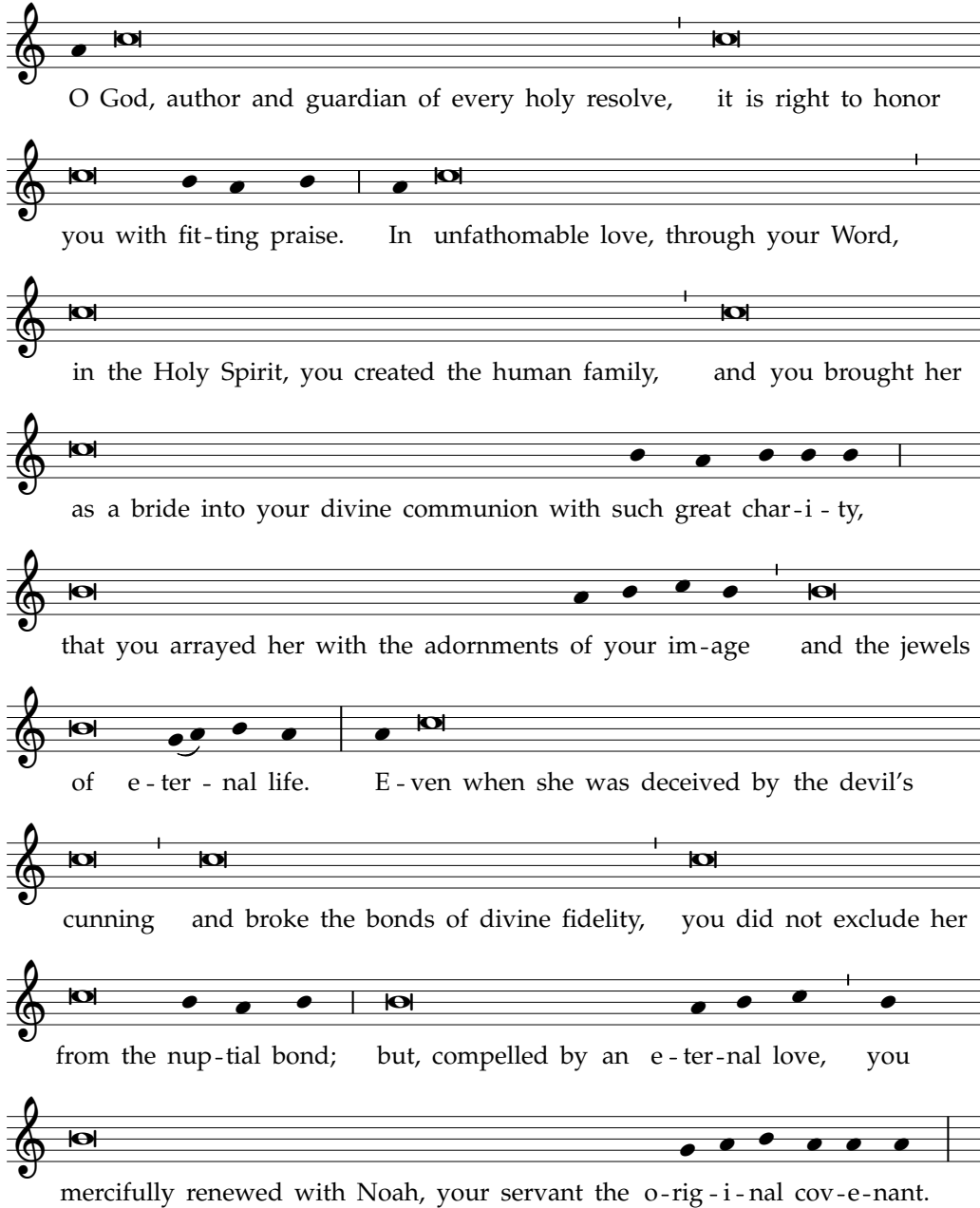


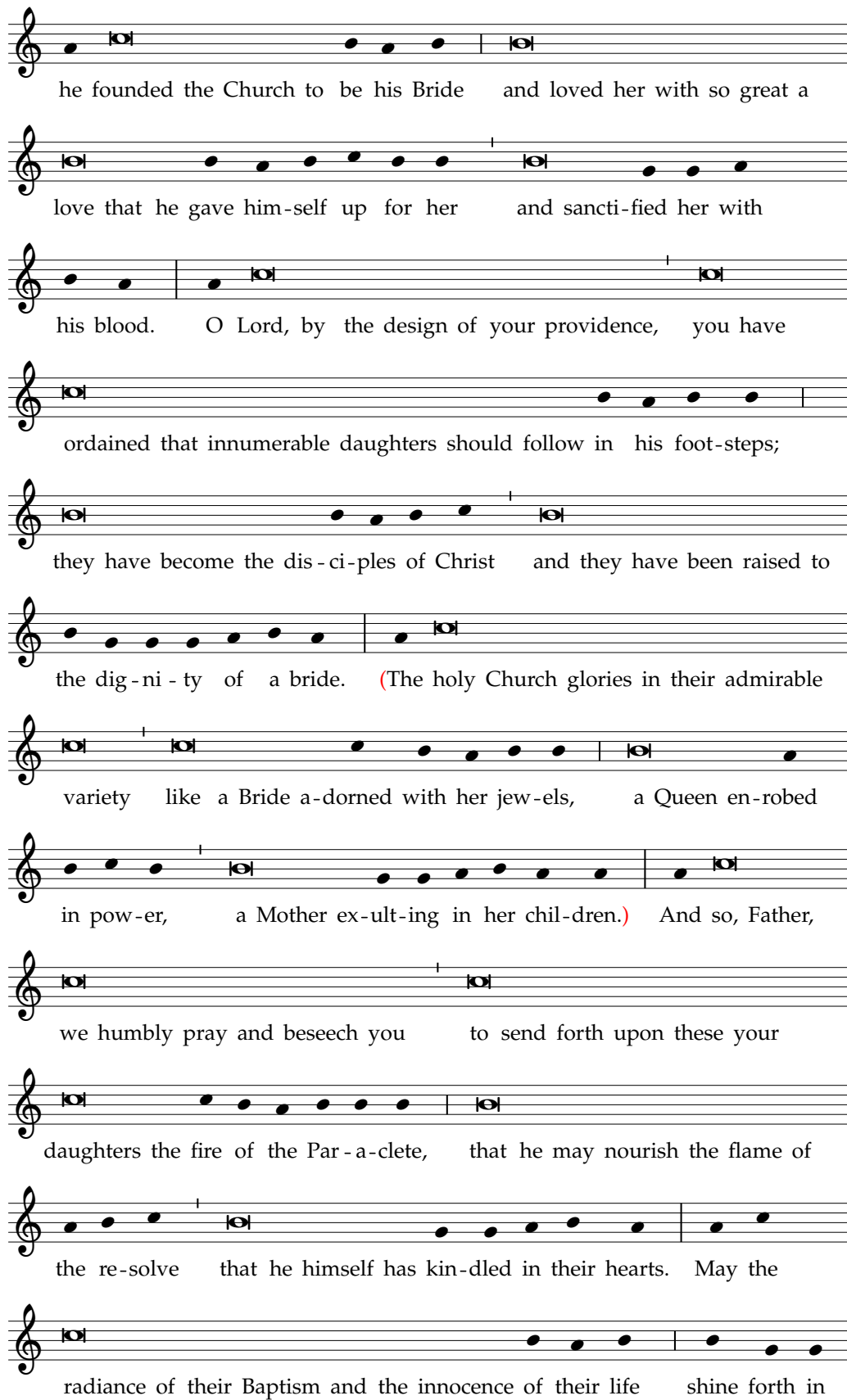
ORDER OF RELIGIOUS PROFESSION OF WOMEN
THE RITE OF PERPETUAL PROFESSION WITHIN MASS

Solemn Blessing or Consecration of the Professed, first option
(Chapter VIII, no. 234)



O God, author and guardian of every holy resolve, it is right to honor
you with fit-ting praise. In unfathomable love, through your Word,
in the Holy Spirit, you created the human family, and you brought her
as a bride into your divine communion with such great char-i - ty,
that you arrayed her with the adornments of your im-age and the jewels
of e - ter - nal life. E - ven when she was deceived by the devil's
cunning and broke the bonds of divine fidelity, you did not exclude her
from the nup-tial bond; but, compelled by an e - ter-nal love, you
mercifully renewed with Noah, your servant the o-rig - i - nal cov-e-nant.

(Then from the stock of Abraham, a man of faith, you chose an offspring
destined to live numerous as the stars; and through Mo-ses, your
ser-vant, you sealed the covenant in the tab-lets of the law.
Through-out the ages, among your be-lov-ed peo-ple, there arose holy
women, outstanding for their de-vo-tion and strength, and illustrious in
their right-eous-ness and faith.) Then, at last, when the fullness of time
had come, you raised up the holy Virgin from the stock of Jes-se.
When the Spirit came upon her as the Paraclete, your power
o - ver-shad-owed her, and through an im-mac - u - late birth
she brought forth the Re-deem-er of the world. Made poor, humble
and obedient, he became the cause and exemplar of all ho - li-ness;



he founded the Church to be his Bride and loved her with so great a

love that he gave him-self up for her and sancti-fied her with

his blood. O Lord, by the design of your providence, you have

ordained that innumerable daughters should follow in his foot-steps;

they have become the dis-ci-ples of Christ and they have been raised to

the dig-ni-ty of a bride. (The holy Church glories in their admirable

variety like a Bride a-dorned with her jew-els, a Queen en-robbed

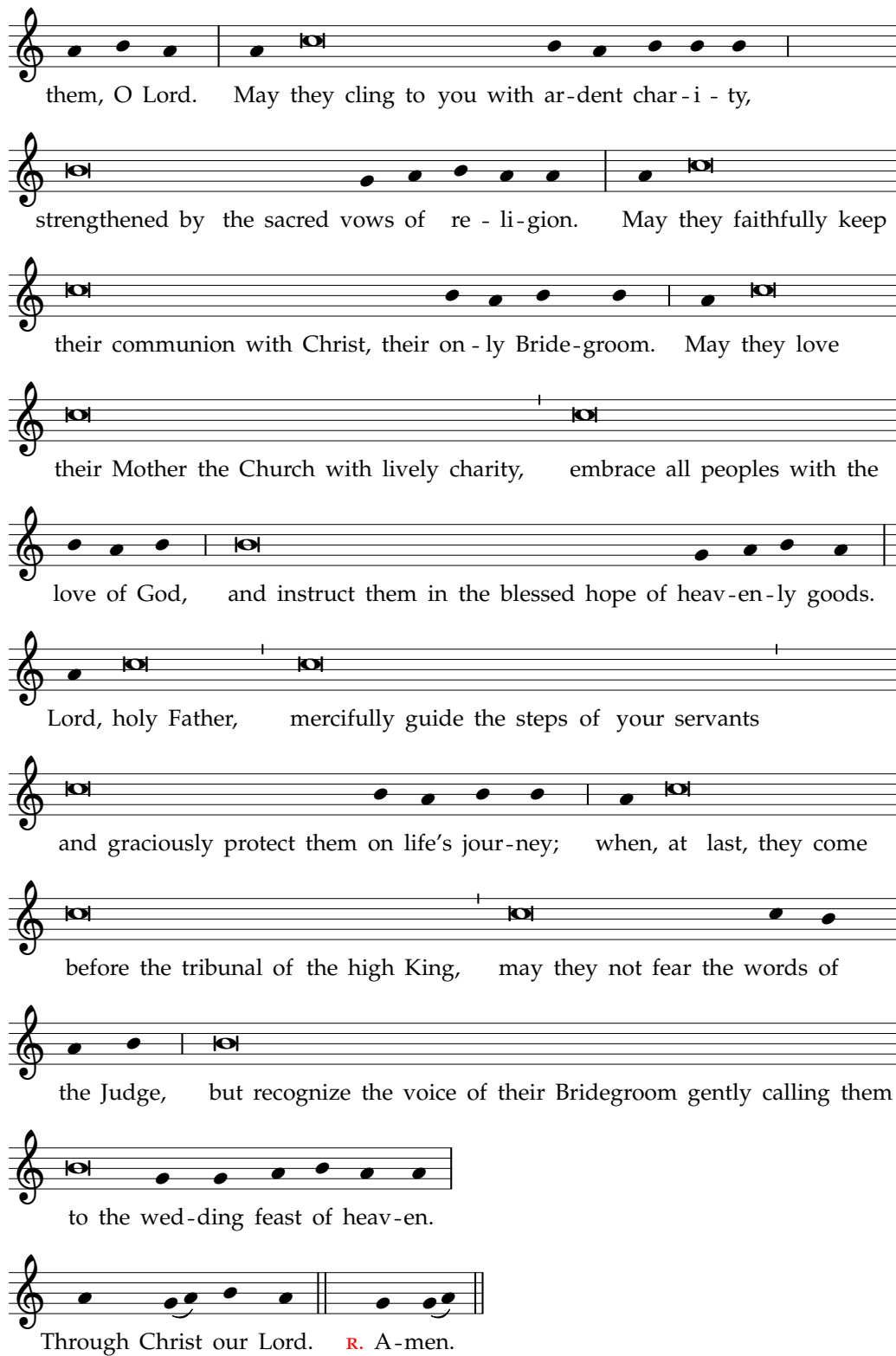
in pow-er, a Mother ex-ult-ing in her chil-dren.) And so, Father,

we humbly pray and beseech you to send forth upon these your

daughters the fire of the Par-a-clete, that he may nourish the flame of

the re-solve that he himself has kin-dled in their hearts. May the

radiance of their Baptism and the innocence of their life shine forth in



them, O Lord. May they cling to you with ar-dent char-i - ty,
 strengthened by the sacred vows of re - li-gion. May they faithfully keep
 their communion with Christ, their on - ly Bride-groom. May they love
 their Mother the Church with lively charity, embrace all peoples with the
 love of God, and instruct them in the blessed hope of heav-en-ly goods.
 Lord, holy Father, mercifully guide the steps of your servants
 and graciously protect them on life's jour-ney; when, at last, they come
 before the tribunal of the high King, may they not fear the words of
 the Judge, but recognize the voice of their Bridegroom gently calling them
 to the wed-ding feast of heav-en.
 Through Christ our Lord. **R.** A-men.