

The general intercessions follow, either in the form usual at Mass or in the form given here. The celebrant concludes the general intercessions with the prayer of blessing.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

The Celebrant: Since God wills the salvation of all, let us pray to Him in these words: **R. Lord, draw all people to yourself.**

Assisting minister:

Father, grant that all people will come to know you, the one true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. (For this we pray:) **R/.**

Send workers into your harvest, so that Your Name will be glorified among the nations. (For this we pray:) **R/.**

You sent the disciples of Jesus to preach the Gospel; help us to spread the victory of his cross. (For this we pray:) **R/.**

Make us docile to the teaching of the apostles and our lives consistent with the truths we believe. (For this we pray:) **R/.**

As you call us to serve you in our brothers and sisters, make us the ministers of your truth. (For this we pray:) **R/.**

Keep us as faithful ministers of your Church, so that, having taught others, we ourselves may be found faithful in your service. (For this we pray:) **R/.**

May the grace of the Holy Spirit guide our hearts and our lips, so that we may remain constant in loving and praising you. (For this we pray:) **R.**

[add any other appropriate intentions]

PRAYER OF BLESSING

With hands outstretched, the celebrant says the prayer of blessing.

With your fatherly blessing, Lord, strengthen these servants of yours in their resolve to dedicate themselves as Catechists. Grant that they will strive to share with others what they themselves derive from reflecting on your Word and studying the Church's teaching. And let them gladly join those they teach in honouring and serving your name.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. R. Amen.

COMMISSIONING SUNDAY FOR CATECHISTS THEME FOR 2015



FAMILIES AND CATECHISTS NURTURING THE FAITH TOGETHER

After the homily the Celebrant addresses the Congregation in the following words:

For the Pastoral Activity of the Church to be faithfully carried out, the cooperation of a great many people is needed.

An essential Ministry in the Church is Catechesis where the Faith is passed on in a systematic and orderly manner.

The Church relies heavily on the generosity of people who volunteer to devote themselves as Catechists.

Enlightened by God's Word and the teaching of the Church, Catechists impart to others the truths of the Faith that they themselves have learned. They initiate those being catechized into participating actively in Liturgical Celebrations, in leading good, value filled lives, in learning how to pray and be actively involved in their Parish.

Therefore, the annual celebration of *Commissioning of Catechists* is also an opportunity for the Parish to recognise the generous commitment that Catechists make: to be present each week for teaching, to give sufficient time for lesson preparation, days of prayer and recollection, commitment to ongoing catechetical formation and training. We pray that through the Holy Spirit they will receive the graces they need to be good, faithful, dedicated Catechists.

[The Catechists are either called by name to come forward, or, if many, are asked to stand. The Celebrant then addresses the Catechists]:

The Celebrant:

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ, you have been called as Catechists to share God's Word with our Parish Family through your example of prayer, teaching, and service. Are you willing to commit yourselves as Catechists for 2015 in the Parish of **[name of Parish]**.

Catechists:

With the help of God, I am ready and willing to serve as a Catechist along with all the Catechists of this parish.

A CATECHIST'S PRAYER: (prayed by the Catechists)

Father of all families, you have called me to serve your family in truth and love as a Catechist.

May I be faithful to this calling by being rooted in your Word, and open to the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

May I use your gifts, especially those of Faith, Hope, and Love, in order to serve as a Catechist in the Parish of(name of Parish).

Let your Holy Spirit enlighten my mind and strengthen my heart so that, through my Ministry, I can be a faithful witness of Christ's unconditional love.

The Celebrant:

May God help you to be good stewards to what has been entrusted to you, and may you all receive the graces you need for your service as Catechists.

[Before the blessing, each Catechist may be presented with a Bible, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and/or a certificate of commissioning. If desirable, the congregation may signify its support by applause, an acclamation, or an appropriate hymn. Alternatively the Catechists may be asked to put their hands on the Bible or on the Catechism of the Catholic Church saying the following:

I promise to be faithful to teaching the Word of God to the best of my ability.
OR I promise to faithfully teach what is contained in the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

The Celebrant blesses the Catechists.

Lord God, source of all wisdom and knowledge, you sent your Son, Jesus Christ, to live among us and to proclaim His message of Faith, Hope and Love to all nations. In Your goodness bless our sisters and brothers who have offered themselves as Catechists in our Parish.

Strengthen them with Your gifts, that they may teach by word and example the truth that comes from You. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen

The Celebrant now addresses the Congregation – in these or similar words.

At this point the Catechists can turn around to face the Congregation.

Dear parishioners of **(name of parish)**. You have witnessed our Catechists publicly committing themselves to the task of passing on the Faith to your children. They have been called to this Ministry on your behalf.

Do you promise to support them in their Ministry? **All:** Yes, we do!

Do you promise to be more active in passing on the Faith in your home and following up on what your children do at catechism? **All:** Yes, we do!

Do you promise to be more diligent when you are called to participate in meetings? **All:** Yes, we do!

Following the blessing of the Catechists, this special blessing for parents and guardians may be offered as recognition of their critical role in forming their children in faith.

The Celebrant: Parents and guardians you are entrusted with a special role and responsibility in forming your children in the Faith. It is fitting that on Commissioning Sunday we offer you a blessing as well.

[The celebrant invites parents and guardians to stand. Stretching out his hands over them and inviting the rest of the community to do the same, he

prays the following]:

The Celebrant:

God our Father, let Your peace settle within the hearts of these parents and guardians. Strengthen them with wisdom as they care for their children. Show them how to raise their families with patience and tenderness. During times of greatest difficulty give them endurance and help them also to recognize the little joys that are part of each day. May they grow in wisdom, grace and understanding.