

RITE OF COMMISSIONING: THIS TAKES PLACE AFTER THE HOMILY

CALLING FORWARD OF THE CATECHISTS by the Parish Catechetical Coordinator

Would those who have been called to serve as Catechists in the Parish of [.....] please come forward. *[If there are not too many Catechists they could be called by name to come forward].*

CELEBRANT: My dear Catechists, I ask you, are you willing to exercise the Ministry of Catechesis, and all that it entails, here 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.

CELEBRANT: *The mandate:* *The Parish Priest using these or similar words draws the attention of the Catechists to the importance of this moment which requires faith, commitment and a sense of responsibility:*

My sisters and brothers, you have been called to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ and to accompany children and youth and their families, in a journey which leads to encountering Jesus, the Saviour and entering into an intimate communion with Him. You have responded generously to God's calling, which demands of you a weekly commitment, great responsibility, growth in discipleship and ability to tell about Jesus through the way in which you live your lives. And so I ask you:

- Do you accept the challenge to make God's love visible in the way you teach, serve the community and live your Christian lives?

The catechists: Yes, I do

- Are you willing to dedicate yourself to the task of catechesis through diligent preparation, personal and community prayer?

The catechists: Yes, I am .

- Are you willing to undergo the necessary formation and training in order to equip you for this Ministry?

The catechists: Yes, I am.

- **Let us Pray:**

May God help you to be good stewards to what has been entrusted to you, and may you and all the Catechists who serve in this parish receive the grace you need for your service here at [name of parish].

(If there are not too many catechists the priest may want to briefly lay hands on them as the congregation prays silently for them).

PROFESSION OF FAITH

To stress the special ministry of the Catechists in teaching the faith, each Catechist can each be given a lighted candle and, *facing the congregation*, lead them in the Profession of Faith.

CATECHISTS' RESPONSE *(at the conclusion of the Creed and before the Prayers of the Faithful)*

Father of us all, you have called me to serve your people as a Catechist.

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

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

Celebrant: God created us to live and grow in love. By being stewards of God's gifts, we take an active part in bringing this vision of life into being. Confident in the power of prayer to transform us, we bring our needs to God who hears and answers us.

The prayers are led by the Catechists in these or similar words:

- We pray for Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, that he may continue to lead us in the practical ways of living out our Faith. *Lord hear us...*
- We pray that we and all God's people may see the light, the truth and the wisdom of Jesus' teaching, and believe more deeply in the Gospel, *Lord hear us...*
- That we may promote the Ministry of Catechesis, and so re-echo it in our homes and community. *Lord hear us...*
- That, through our catechesis and mutual good example, we may encourage each other and especially

youth and children, in the works of justice, mercy and compassion. *Lord hear us...*

- That our parish may be blessed with more generous people who will volunteer to be Catechists, and thus break the Word of the Good News among us. *Lord hear us...*
- For our families and our parents, we pray that our homes may be places where faith, life and wisdom is shared as much as food and clothing. *Lord hear us...*
- (Prayed by a parent) Today we pray especially for our Catechists. May God bless them and their families for the many sacrifices they make in order to pass on the Faith to others, especially our children and young people. *Lord hear us.*

Celebrant: Lord God, you promised life and blessing as your gift to us. Help us to understand the greatness of your gift to us and help us to reach out to receive it. We ask you this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who with you and the Holy Spirit, is God, always and forever.

"Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing."

[With hands outstretched, the celebrant prays the blessing over the Catechists.]

Celebrant: With your fatherly blessing, Lord, strengthen these servants of yours in their resolve to dedicate themselves as catechists. Strengthen them with your gifts, that they may teach by word and by example, the truth that comes from you. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R/. Amen.

[After the prayer of blessing, each catechist may be presented with a Bible, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and/or a certificate of commissioning, after which they return to their places]

ARCHDIOCESE OF CAPE TOWN
CENTRE FOR PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT

12 Bouquet St • Cape Town, 8001 • South Africa