

**CELEBRANT – Concluding Prayer:**

God, our Father send your Holy Spirit upon these sisters and brothers of our community who are about to begin a new Catechetical Year. Fill them with love and wisdom so that they may be able to show the way of faith and conversion. Help them to be humble, patient and respectful. May they be faithful to your Word and steadfast in a way of life according to your Gospel.

The catechists may remain standing and, if appropriate, face the congregation, as the Creed is prayed. *The catechists sit down or return to their places and the Mass continues as usual.*



**At the end of Mass: Blessing of Parents and Guardians (optional)**

*Following the prayer after communion, this special blessing for **parents, guardians, godparents and sponsors**, may be offered as recognition of their critical role in forming those entrusted to their care in the Faith. .*

*The celebrant invites parents, guardians, godparents and sponsors to stand. Stretching out his hands over them and inviting the rest of the community to do the same, he prays the following:*

**CELEBRANT:**

Parents and guardians, godparents and sponsors, you are entrusted with a special role and responsibility in forming your children and others in the faith. It is fitting on this Commissioning Sunday that we offer a blessing for you.

**CELEBRANT:**

In Christ, God has revealed his love and his truth. May he make you witnesses to the Gospel and to the divine love. **R/. Amen.**

The Lord Jesus promised to be with his Church until the end of the world. May he give power to your actions and your words. **R/. Amen.**

May the Spirit of the Lord be with you, so that you may help the ministers of his Word. **R/. Amen.**

And may almighty God bless us all, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **R/. Amen.**

**LIVING AS MISSIONARY DISCIPLES  
COMMISSIONING SUNDAY FOR CATECHISTS  
JANUARY 2019**

*The commissioning can take place within the Sunday Mass or Sunday Celebration in the absence of a Priest preferably before the beginning of Lent*

*This ceremony for the blessing and commissioning of catechists is intended to take place at the Eucharistic liturgy on Commissioning Sunday. If this is not possible, the blessing and commissioning may be celebrated at Mass at another time, or it may be used outside of Mass, perhaps with the praying of the Liturgy of the Hours or at a simple commissioning service. The rite of blessing that follows is from the Book of Blessings, chapter 4, section I, "Order for the Blessing of Those Appointed as Catechists."*



*After the homily the Celebrant addresses the Community of the Faithful as follows:*

**CELEBRANT:**

For the pastoral activity of the Church to be successful, the cooperation of a great many people is needed.

To assist us to grow into a deeper understanding and love for our Faith, there are numerous parishioners who sacrifice their time every week by accepting to be part of the Ministry of Catechesis.

Today, we not only invite them to commit themselves to this ministry for the coming year, but we also acknowledge the good work that they do on a continual basis.

We pray for them today, through the power of Holy Spirit, that they will receive the grace of commitment and perseverance to the mission entrusted to them.

**DEACON or PARISH CATECHETICAL COORDINATOR:**

Would those who have been called to serve as catechists in [name of parish] please stand/come forward (*depending on the number and the place, the catechists could be called forward by name*).

**CELEBRANT addressing the Catechists:**

My dear Catechist, I now ask you:

Are you willing to exercise the Ministry of Catechesis here at [name of parish] with dedication and commitment?

**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:**

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].

**CELEBRANT addressing the Parish Catechetical Coordinator/s:**

Are you (name/names) willing to continue exercising your ministry as Coordinator of Catechesis at [name of parish].

**Catechetical Coordinator:** With the grace of God I am willing to do so.

**CELEBRANT addressing the Catechists:**

Do you pledge your loyalty and wholehearted support to your Parish Catechetical Coordinator/s?

**CATECHISTS:** I do.

**CELEBRANT:** May God bring to fulfilment the commitment you have made in the presence of your brothers and sisters in this community.

**General Intercessions:** *The general intercessions follow the introduction to the blessing. These intercessions may be used in whole or in part. Always include your own intentions for local needs.*

**CELEBRANT:**

Let us now pray for the needs of the Church, the world, and our own personal needs. 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.

**EITHER AN ASSISTING MINISTER OR SOME CATECHISTS:**

1. **For the Church:** May it grow stronger in its determination to welcome and embrace those who are living on the margins of society. Lord hear us. **R/** Lord graciously hear us.

2. **For the leaders of all the nations:** May their first concern be to preserve and foster peace through compassionate policies and just systems. Lord hear us. **R/** Lord graciously hear us.
3. **For those who suffer from physical and mental illness:** May they be healed through God's infinite mercy and be comforted by those who care for them. Lord hear us. **R/** Lord graciously hear us.
4. **For all families:** By the grace of God may they grow stronger in their love and commitment to one another. Lord hear us. **R/** Lord graciously hear us.
5. **For the families of our Parish:** We pray that their homes may be places where faith, life and wisdom is shared as much as food and clothing. Lord hear us...**R/** Lord graciously hear us.
6. **For all those who serve as catechists in the Church:** May they be blessed with perseverance, creativity and enthusiasm as they minister to God's people. Lord hear us. **R/** Lord graciously hear us.
7. **For an increase in the number of Catechists:** May the hearts of parishioners be touched so that they too can come forward and offer their service as catechists. Lord hear us. **R/** Lord graciously hear us.

**Blessing:** *With hands outstretched, the celebrant prays the blessing for the catechists.*

**CELEBRANT – prayer of blessing over the Catechists:**

With your fatherly blessing, Lord, strengthen these servants of yours in their resolve to dedicate or re-dedicate themselves as catechists. Grant that they will strive to share with others what they themselves receive from reflecting on your Word and studying the teachings of the Church. And let them gladly join those they teach in honoring and serving your name. 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. If desirable, the congregation may signify its support by applause, an acclamation, or an appropriate hymn.*

**PRAYER OF THE CATECHISTS:**

Lord Jesus, you promise to be with us always.  
Help me to be conscious of the commitment  
I am making today  
and the responsibility of being faithful  
to it throughout the year. **AMEN**

**LIVING AS MISSIONARY DISCIPLES  
COMMISSIONING SUNDAY FOR CATECHISTS  
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**A CATECHIST'S PRAYER**

Loving God, Creator of all things,  
you call us to be in relationship with you and others.

Thank you for calling me to be a catechist,  
for the opportunity to share with others  
what you have given to me.

May all those with whom I share the gift of faith  
discover how you are present in all things.

May they come to know you, the one true God,  
and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.  
May the grace of the Holy Spirit guide my heart and lips,  
so that I may remain constant in loving and praising you.

May I be a witness to the Gospel and a minister of your truth.  
May all my words and actions reflect your love.

