



ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK YOUTH FAITH FORMATION



Rite of Blessing Outside of Mass

The blessing for catechists, when celebrated outside of the Eucharist, may be incorporated into a prayer service or Liturgy of the Hours. Or it may be used along with the following celebration of the Word, taken from the Book of Blessings, Chapter 4, Section I, "Order for the Blessing of Those appointed as Catechists."

INTRODUCTORY RITES

The celebration starts with an appropriate song and continues with the following greeting.

CELEBRANT:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. R/. Amen.

CELEBRANT:

May God the Father of mercies, who wills that all be saved, be with you.

ALL:

And with your spirit.

CELEBRANT:

The cooperation of a great many people is needed if individuals and communities are to grow to full maturity in faith through prayer and the celebration of the sacraments, through study, and through their way of living.

READING OF THE WORD OF GOD

A reader, another person present, or the celebrant reads either the following text or another suitable for the occasion.

READING

Romans 10:9-15

Those who dedicate themselves to the ministry of catechesis play a vital role in the pastoral activity of the Church. Enlightened by the Word of God and the teaching of the Church, and inspired by their own life of prayer and witness, catechists lead others to know the living Jesus Christ through word and deed. Through the ministry of catechesis, catechists provide a process of initiation and formation for those in their care, introducing them to the truths of faith that they themselves have learned, lived, and celebrated.

In this celebration we will bless the name of the Lord for giving us such collaborators and we will pray that through the Holy Spirit they receive the grace they need in their service to the Church.

PSALM RESPONSE

Psalm 96

R/. Proclaim his marvelous deeds to all the nations.

Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all you lands. Sing to the Lord, bless his name. R/.

Announce his salvation, day after day. Tell his glory among the nations; among all peoples, his wondrous deeds. R/.

Give to the Lord, you families of nations, give to the Lord glory and praise; give to the Lord the glory due his name! R/.

ASSISTING MINISTER:

God of all creation, we long for a world transformed by peace and bound together in love. Fill us with hope, and remind us to turn to you with our needs and our prayers. For this we pray: R/.

Strengthen and multiply those called to catechetical ministry, and show us how to support and encourage their work. For this we pray: R/.

Give us a sense of urgency and passion as we proclaim the holy Gospel. For this we pray: R/.

Give us courage to speak the truth and to stand firm in our call for international justice. For this we pray: R/.

Open us to listen to others with a spirit of compassion and empathy. For this we pray: R/.

Remind us of the ways we can serve those in our midst who are overlooked, ignored, or rejected. For this we pray: R/.

May your Holy Spirit guide our hearts and our lips, so that we may remain constant in our love and praise for you. For this we pray: R/.

Director/Coordinator of Religious Education can distribute certificates or recognize years of service at this time.

Say among the nations: The Lord is king. He has made the world firm, not to be moved; he governs the people with equity. R/.

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:

Since God wills the salvation of all, let us pray to him in these words: "Lord, draw all people to yourself." (Or: "Lord, hear our prayer.")

BLESSING

With hands outstretched, the celebrant prays the blessing for the catechists.

CELEBRANT:

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 pondering your Word and studying the Church's teaching. And let them gladly join those they teach in honoring and serving your name. We ask this through Christ our Lord. R/. Amen.

OR

CELEBRANT:

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 brothers and sisters who have offered themselves as catechists for your Church. 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.

The ritual concludes with the celebrant offering the final prayer.

CONCLUDING RITE

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.

