

INSTRUCTIONS

This ceremony for the blessing and commissioning of catechists is intended to take place at the Parish Qurbono on Catechetical Sunday following the homily.

At either the beginning of the Liturgy, the homily, or the Rite of Commissioning, the pastor is urged to introduce the catechists and the theme of the year in observance of Catechetical Sunday.

In the homily, the celebrant gives an explanation of the celebration of Catechesis that is based on the Scriptures expressed through the theme of Catechetical Sunday.

Following the homily, the celebrant, deacon, or other suitable minister calls all those to be commissioned to come forward, either individually by name or as a group. The celebrant may then introduce the blessing using the text of the Rite of Commissioning or similar words. An optional blessing for parents or guardians is also provided, you may use it if you wish.

The Religious Education Coordinator and all the catechists may be commissioned together during the Catechetical Sunday Liturgy. They may process in with the celebrant and be seated as a group in front of the church.

A "Prayer for Catechists" in the form of a prayer card is included in the packet. Print the prayer in the bulletin on Catechetical Sunday or print it separately as a prayer card to distribute to the parish. At the end of the Rite of Commissioning, or at the end of the Qurbono you may ask the entire congregation to pray it together as a group.

A "Prayer for Family Commitment" is also provided in the packet. Print it in the bulletin on Catechetical Sunday or print it separately as a prayer card to distribute to household members. This may serve as reminder of their commitment to catechesis throughout the year.

A. St. Maron Lectionary (Father Joseph Amar):

Old Testament Reading:

Daniel 4:5-9

New Testament Reading

Philippians 2:1-11

Gospel:

Luke 17:20-37

B. Bkerke Lectionary:

New Testament Reading

2 Timothy 2:1-10

Gospel

Mark 10:35-45

RITE OF COMMISSIONING

Invitation and Introduction of Catechists: *(Priest or Deacon may introduce all catechists, read their names and ask them to come forward, depending on the number and place). Would those who are willing to serve as catechists in (name of parish) please stand or come forward?*

The celebrant addresses the assembly:

Priest: For the pastoral activity of the Church, the cooperation of a great many people is needed, so that communities as well as individuals may advance to full maturity in faith and continually show forth their faith through the celebration of the Liturgy, through study, and through their manner of life.

This cooperation is provided by those who devote themselves to Catechesis. Enlightened by God's Word and the teaching of the church, catechists impart to others an initiation or a deeper formation in those realities that they themselves have learned as truths to be followed in living and to be celebrated in Liturgy.

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

The Celebrant addresses the catechists:

Priest: Dear brothers and sisters, 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 exercise the ministry of catechesis here at **(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.

Priest: 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)**.

The Celebrant addresses the Assembly:

Priest: Dear parishioners of **(name of parish)** you have witnessed our catechists publicly committing to share their time and talents in the service and ministry of our parish. They have been called to the catechetical ministry on your behalf. Do you pledge your support to their spiritual endeavors?

ALL: Yes, we do! (Applause)

The Celebrant blesses the Catechists.

Priest: 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 example the truth that comes from You. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen

Blessing of Parents and Guardians (Optional)

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.

Priest: Parents and guardians are entrusted with a special role and responsibility in forming their children in faith. It is fitting on this Catechetical Sunday that we offer a blessing for them.

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:

Priest: God our Father, let Your peace settle within the hearts of these mothers, fathers, and guardians. Give them strength and wisdom as they care for their children. Show them how to raise their families with patience and tenderness. Give them strength during the times of greatest difficulty and help them recognize the little joys that are part of each day. May they grow in wisdom, grace and understanding. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, Your only Son who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.