

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL:

- Celebrant:** God wills the salvation of all, let us pray to him.
- Catechist:** Father, grant that all people will come to know you, the one true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. **Lord hear us.**
- Catechist:** Send workers into your harvest, so that your name will be glorified among the nations. **Lord hear us.**
- Catechist:** You sent the disciples of Jesus to preach the Gospel; help us to spread the victory of his cross. **Lord hear us.**
- Catechist:** Make us docile to the teaching of the apostles and our lives consistent with the truths we believe. **Lord hear us.**
- Catechist:** As you call us to serve you in our brothers and sisters, make us the ministers of your truth. **Lord hear us.**
- Catechist:** May parents/guardians, grandparents, by their love and care, bring those entrusted to them to experience God's love. **Lord hear us.**
- Catechist:** May our faith communities continue to support parents in their task in both material and prayerful ways. **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.



COMMISSIONING RITE FOR PARISH CATECHISTS

2020

*(The Rite of Commissioning
takes place after the homily)*

Celebrant: *(to the congregation)*
The Catechetical Ministry within our parish is carried out by many people who volunteer their time and energy.

Today we call upon our Catechists who will be commissioned for the year 2020. They are united in their task of making God's love real and active in the lives of those they catechize.



Before we call upon the Catechists to come forward, we need to acknowledge those among us who are the first and most important teachers of the Faith.

(ask parents/ guardians, grandparents to stand up)

Celebrant: *(addressing those who are standing)*

Parents, *(where applicable include guardians or grandparents.)*
You are the first educators of your children, in the ways of faith. You have been gifted with the task of bringing them to Jesus. So, I now ask you:

- *Are you prepared to accept this special responsibility and re-commit yourselves to it?* **Parents:** We are
 - *Do you commit yourselves to work in closer partnership with the catechists of your children?* **Parents:** We are
- Celebrant:** May God who sees into the depths of our hearts reward you for your generosity of Spirit. Amen.

(Parents are asked to be seated)

[Catechists are invited to come forward and stand before the assembly – if not too many, they may be called out by name.]

Celebrant: Are you resolved to unite yourself more closely to Jesus and to make Him the focal point of your life and your teaching?

Catechists: *We are.*

Celebrant: Are you resolved to unite yourself more closely to Jesus and to make Him the central point of your life and your teaching?

Catechists: *We are.*

Celebrant: Do you accept the responsibilities that comes with your ministry as a Catechist which is based on your love for Jesus Christ and His Church?

Catechists: *We are*

Celebrant: *(addressing the community)*

We all share in the ministry of proclaiming and teaching the Word of God.

My brothers and sisters of (name of Parish.....), do you pledge your support for these catechists by your co-operation and your prayers?

All: *We do.*

Celebrant: *(addressing the Catechists once more)*

My friends, you have accepted your responsibility based on your love for Jesus Christ and His Church.

You are being entrusted with the formal catechesis of children, young people and adults in this parish and with breaking open the Word with them. *I invite you now to recommit yourselves to this important ministry with conviction and dedication.*

Prayer of Commitment: *(if the congregation is large, one Catechist could speak from a microphone so that all can hear)*

We commit ourselves to the formal sharing of faith with the children, young people and adults in our parish.

We commit ourselves to be diligent in all that is asked of us.

We commit ourselves to work in closer partnership with parents/guardians and parish leaders.

We commit ourselves to seek a deeper relationship with God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Celebrant: *(with hands extended over the catechists)*

May you experience the power of God's presence in your catechetical ministry.

Catechists: Amen

Celebrant: May your faith be strengthened and deepened as you pass it on to others.

Catechists: Amen

Celebrant: And may Almighty God bless you Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Catechists: Amen.

If there are Parish Catechetical Co-ordinators who need to be commissioned or re-commissioned, keep in mind that they are usually commissioned for a period of three years, renewable at the discretion of the Parish Priest.

Celebrant: (...Name...) Are you willing to exercise the responsibility as Catechetical Coordinator of (...name of Parish...) for the next three years?

Coordinator: With the help of God, I am ready and willing to serve as Parish Catechetical Coordinator.

Celebrant: May the Spirit of God empower you to be faithful to what has been entrusted to you and grant you the grace to faithfully carry out this service.

All: Amen

At this point, if desirable, each Catechist may be presented with a certificate of commissioning and/or a blessing of their Bibles, or some other symbol of their ministry.

If desirable, the congregation may signify their support by applause, an acclamation, or an appropriate hymn.

Father, anoint with your Holy Spirit these Catechists as they pass on your Word to others. May your Eternal Word penetrate and transform their whole being. Grant that they may be faithful disciples in bringing your Light to others. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.