

Order for the Blessing of Those Appointed as Catechists
Order of Blessing Within Mass
(See *Book of Blessings* nos. 504 – 508)

Following the Homily and the Creed, the Universal Prayer (General Intercessions) proceeds as usual. Before the intercessions begin, the celebrant may call forward those who are being appointed as catechists.

The following sample intercessions from the Order of Blessing, or those composed by the parish, may be included among the usual intercessions to highlight the ministry of catechists:

Father, grant that all people will come to know you, the one true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. For this we pray....

As you call us to serve you in our brothers and sisters, make us the ministers of your truth. For this we pray...

May the grace of the Holy Spirit guide our hearts and our lips, so that we may remain constant in loving and praising you. For this we pray...

The celebrant concludes the Universal Prayer with the Prayer of Blessing over those appointed as catechists.

Prayer of Blessing

**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.**

Amen.

The Assembly may be invited to offer applause as a sign of support at the conclusion of the Prayer of Blessing. Depending on local custom, this may also be the time to offer catechists a small token of appreciation, such as a special pin, prayer card, book, etc.

As an alternative, if it seems more opportune, the calling forth, the Prayer of Blessing and recognition of catechists, may come at the end of Mass as when a prayer over the people is offered.

If for some reason this blessing cannot be celebrated during Mass, the *Book of Blessings* provides an alternative “Order of Blessing Within A Celebration of the Word of God” (nos. 493-503).