

RITE OF BLESSING
OF THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND CATECHISTS

Following the homily, the celebrant calls the Director of Religious Education to step forward.
The celebrant then address him/her:

Celebrant: We thank you for ministering the people of *(Name of the Parish)* in their educational needs as Director of Religious Education Program. Are you ready and willing to perform your service with love and care to the catechists and candidates that are entrusted to you?

DRE: With the assistance of God's grace, I am ready and willing to serve as Director of Religious Education in *(Name of the Parish)*. May, I along with all others involved in education in this parish, be a good steward of what God has entrusted to me.

The Director of Religious Education calls the catechists forward. When they are before the assembly, the celebrant addresses them:

Celebrant: We thank you for your ministering to our people in their educational needs as catechists in our Religious Education Program. Are you ready and willing to perform your service with love and great care, leading especially by your example of Christian living?

Catechists: With the Assistance of God's grace, we are ready and willing to serve as catechists in this parish. May we, be good stewards of what God has entrusted to us.

The celebrant then continues in these words:

Celebrant: The Church has recognized that the primary educators of our children are the parents. It is in the home that children learn the values and way of life that will carry them through all of their life. But the Church also recognizes that for this truly happen, the cooperation of a great many people is needed, so that communities as well as individuals may advance to full maturity in faith through the celebration of the liturgy, through study, and through their manner of life.

These people have come forward to devote themselves to taking in this educational challenge. Enlightened by God's Word and the teaching of the Church, they will help to teach our children the truths of our faith.

I now ask the members of this parish, please stand. **Pause**

Are you ready and willing to support these catechists in their educational ministry

in this parish through your love and great care, your example of Christian living, and your prayer?

Response: We are

Now the celebrant invites the congregation to raise their hands in blessing as he says:

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 families.

In your goodness bless our sisters and brothers who have offered themselves in the Christian education of our children. Strengthen them with your gifts that they may lead and teach by word and example the truths that come from you. We ask this through Christ our Lord.