THE ROMAN RITUAL

Revised by Decree of the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council
and Published by Authority of Pope John Paul II

BOOK OF BLESSINGS

APPROVED FOR USE IN THE
DIOCESES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
BY THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS
AND CONFIRMED BY THE APOSTOLIC SEE

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DECREE

In accord with the norms established by decree of the Sacred Congregation of Rites in *Cum, nostra aetate* (27 January 1966), this edition of the *Book of Blessings* containing the additional proper blessings approved for use in the United States of America is declared to be the vernacular typical edition of *De Benedictionibus* in the dioceses of the United States of America, and is published by authority of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The *Book of Blessings* and the additional proper blessings for use in the United States of America were canonically approved for use *ad interim* by the Administrative Committee of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops on 22 March 1988 and were subsequently confirmed by the Apostolic See by decree of the Congregation for Divine Worship on 27 January 1989 (Prot. N. 699/88).

On 1 October 1989 the *Book of Blessings* may be published and used in the liturgy. From 3 December 1989, the First Sunday of Advent, the use of the *Book of Blessings* is mandatory in the dioceses of the United States of America. From that day forward no other English version may be used.

Given at the General Secretariat of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC, on 19 March 1989, the solemnity of Saint Joseph, Husband of Mary.

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  President
  National Conference of Catholic Bishops

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Prayer of Blessing

With hands outstretched, the celebrant concludes the intercessions by saying:

Almighty and eternal God,
you have so exalted the unbreakable bond of marriage
that it has become the sacramental sign
of your Son’s union with the Church as his spouse.

Look with favor on N. and N., whom you have united in marriage,
as they ask for your help
and the protection of the Virgin Mary.
They pray that in good times and in bad
they will grow in love for each other;
that they will resolve to be of one heart
in the bond of peace.

Lord, in their struggles let them rejoice
that you are near to help them;
in their needs let them know
that you are there to rescue them;
in their joys let them see
that you are the source and completion of every happiness.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R!. Amen.

In the liturgy of the eucharist the Order of Mass is observed, with the few modifications indicated.

As circumstances suggest, the husband and wife may bring the bread and wine to the altar for the presentation of the gifts.

As circumstances suggest and in keeping with local custom, after the celebrant says: The peace of the Lord be with you, the husband and wife and all present may offer to each other some sign of peace and love.
PRAYER OF BLESSING

319 A minister who is a priest or deacon says the prayer of blessing with hands outstretched over the parents and child; a lay minister says the prayer with hands joined.

Loving God,
your Son has taught us
that whoever welcomes a child in his name, welcomes him.
We give you thanks for N.,
whom N. and N. have welcomed into their family.
Bless this family.
Confirm a lively sense of your presence with them and grant to these parents patience and wisdom, that their lives may show forth the love of Christ as they bring N. up to love all that is good.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R/. Amen.

As circumstances suggest, the minister in silence may sprinkle the family with holy water.

CONCLUDING RITE

320 A minister who is a priest or deacon concludes the rite by saying:

May almighty God, who has called us into the family of Christ,
fill you with grace and peace,
now and for ever.

R/. Amen.

Then he blesses all present.
And may almighty God bless you all,
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

R/. Amen.
that, moved by your love, they may gladly devote themselves to assisting those in need and in misfortune. (For this we pray:) R.

Assisting minister:
You willed that your Mother should also be our Mother; grant that, whenever we turn to her for protection, we will find in her a helper sent to us from heaven. (For this we pray:) R.

586 When there are no intercessions, the celebrant, before the prayer of blessing and using the following or other similar words, invites those present to ask for God’s help.

My brothers and sisters, let us pray that God who is love will enkindle our hearts with the fire of the Holy Spirit, to give us an ardent love for others, like Christ’s love for us.

As circumstances suggest, all may then pray for a moment in silence before the prayer of blessing.

PRAYER OF BLESSING

587 With hands outstretched, the celebrant continues with the prayer of blessing.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of mercy, who through your Son gave us a marvelous example of charity and the great commandment of love for one another. Send down your blessings on these your servants, who so generously devote themselves to helping others. When they are called on in times of need, let them faithfully serve you in their neighbor.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.
Blessing of an Image of Mary

Assisting minister:
Savior of the world, by your redeeming power you preserved your Mother from every stain of sin; keep watch over us that we may not sin. (For this we pray:) R'.

Assisting minister:
Our Lord and Redeemer, you dwelt within the immaculate Virgin Mary and made her the sanctuary of the Holy Spirit; make us temples of the same Spirit for ever. (For this we pray:) R'.

Assisting minister:
Christ our Priest, your Mother stood at the foot of the cross; grant through her intercession that we may rejoice to share in your passion. (For this we pray:) R'.

Assisting minister:
King of Kings, you lifted up your Mother, body and soul, into heaven; help us fix our thoughts and hearts on the things above. (For this we pray:) R'.

Assisting minister:
Lord of heaven and earth, you crowned Mary and set her at your right hand as queen; make us worthy to share also in this glory. (For this we pray:) R'.

When there are no intercessions, the celebrant, before the prayer of blessing and using the following or other similar words, invites those present to ask for God’s help.

As we are gathered here together like the apostles with the Mother of Jesus, let us also like them offer our prayers to God.

As circumstances suggest, all may then pray for a moment in silence before the prayer of blessing.
Let my soul glory in the LORD;  
the lowly will hear me and be glad. R'.

Glorify the LORD with me,  
let us together extol his name.  
I sought the LORD, and he answered me  
and delivered me from all my fears. R'.

Look to him that you may be radiant with joy,  
and your faces may not blush with shame.  
When the afflicted man called out, the LORD heard,  
and from all his distress he saved him. R'.

The angel of the LORD encamps  
around those who fear him, and delivers them.  
Taste and see how good the LORD is;  
happy the man who takes refuge in him. R'.

Fear the LORD, you his holy ones,  
for nought is lacking to those who fear him.  
The great grow poor and hungry;  
but those who seek the LORD want for no good thing. R'.

Come, children, hear me;  
I will teach you the fear of the LORD.  
Which of you desires life,  
and takes delight in prosperous days? R'.

Keep your tongue from evil  
and your lips from speaking guile;  
Turn from evil and do good;  
seek peace, and follow after it. R'.

Psalm 27

R'. (v. 14) Put your hope in the Lord; take courage and be strong.

1644 As circumstances suggest, the minister may give those present a brief explanation of the biblical text, so that they may understand through faith the meaning of the celebration.
Psalm 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20

Ρ. (see John 6:58b) Whoever eats this bread will live for ever.

1888 In the homily the minister first explains the reason for this ministry.

PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATES

1889 Then he presents to the people those chosen to serve as extraordinary ministers, using these or similar words:

Dear friends in Christ, our brothers/sisters Ἅ. and Ἅ. are to be entrusted with administering the eucharist, with taking communion to the sick, and with giving it as viaticum to the dying.

The minister pauses, and addresses the candidates:

In this ministry, you must be examples of Christian living in faith and conduct; you must strive to grow in holiness through this sacrament of unity and love. Remember that, though many, we are one body because we share the one bread and one cup.

As ministers of holy communion be, therefore, especially observant of the Lord’s command to love your neighbor. For when he gave his body as food to his disciples, he said to them: “This is my commandment, that you should love one another as I have loved you.”

EXAMINATION

1890 After the address the candidates stand before the minister, who asks them these questions:

Are you resolved to undertake the office of giving the body and blood of the Lord to your brothers and sisters, and so serve to build up the Church?

Ρ. I am.