

# THE ROMAN RITUAL

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

## SHORTER BOOK OF BLESSINGS

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## **II. ORDER FOR THE ANNUAL BLESSING OF FAMILIES IN THEIR OWN HOMES**

### **INTRODUCTION**

**62** Pastors must regard as one of their primary pastoral duties the faithful visitation of families to bring the message of Christ's peace. They will thus obey the command of Christ to his disciples: "On entering any house, first say: 'Peace to this house' " (Luke 10:5).

**63** Pastors and their assistants must therefore consider as a sacred trust the custom of an annual visit, particularly during the Easter season, to the families living in their parish. The occasion is a rich opportunity to fulfill pastoral responsibilities that grow in effectiveness the more the priests come to know the families.

**64** The order for the annual blessing of families in their homes directly pertains to the family and therefore requires the presence of the family members.

**65** No house is to be blessed unless the residents are present.

**66** The present order may be used by a priest or deacon.

**67** Normally the blessing is celebrated in each individual home. But for pastoral reasons and in the interest of increased unity between families living in the same building or locale, the blessing may be celebrated for several families gathered together in one convenient place. The text of the prayer of blessing is then adapted accordingly.

**68** While maintaining the structure and chief elements of the rite, the celebrant should adapt the celebration to the circumstances of the place and the families involved. The celebrant's manner of presiding at the celebration should manifest the attentive concern of charity toward all present, particularly the young, the elderly, and the sick.

**ORDER OF BLESSING****INTRODUCTORY RITES**

**69** When the community has gathered, the celebrant greets those present in the following or other suitable words, taken mainly from sacred Scripture.

**Peace be with this house and with all who live here.**

**Or:**

**The grace and peace of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.**

**All make the following or some other suitable reply.**

**And also with you.**

**70** In the following or similar words, which should always be adapted to suit the particular situation, the celebrant prepares those present for the blessing.

**The purpose of the parish visit is that through the ministry of the priest (deacon) Christ may enter your home to bring you peace and joy. This happens above all through the reading of the word of God and the prayer of the Church.**

**Let us, then, prepare ourselves inwardly, so that, through the Holy Spirit, Christ himself will speak to us in this celebration and bring us the comfort of his presence.**

**READING OF THE WORD OF GOD**

**71** One of those present or the celebrant reads a text of sacred Scripture, taken preferably from those indicated here.

**Brothers and sisters, listen to the words of the holy gospel according to Matthew:**

**7:24-28**

*A house built on rock.*

**Jesus said to his disciples: "Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise**

**1 Thessalonians 5:18**

**In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.**

**249** A minister who is a priest or deacon says the prayer of blessing with hands outstretched; a lay minister says the prayer with hands joined.

**O God,  
our every blessing comes from you  
and you welcome the simple prayers  
of those who bless your name.  
Grant that this mother may live  
in reliance on your goodness and in thankfulness to you.  
Give to her and to her child the joyful reassurance  
that you are always near to protect them.**

**We ask this through Christ our Lord.**

**R.** Amen.

**SHORT FORMULARY**

**250** As circumstances suggest, a priest or deacon may use the following short blessing formulary.

**May the Lord God almighty,  
who through the earthly birth of his own Son  
has filled the whole world with joy,  
so bless ✠ you  
that the child he has given you  
will always bring joy to your heart.**

**R.** Amen.

**B**

For substance abuse

God of mercy,  
we bless you in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ,  
who ministered to all who came to him.  
Give your strength to **N.**, your servant,  
enfold him/her in your love  
and restore him/her to the freedom of God's children.

Lord,  
look with compassion on all those  
who have lost their health and freedom.  
Restore to them the assurance of your unfailing mercy,  
strengthen them in the work of recovery,  
and help them to resist all temptation.

To those who care for them,  
grant patient understanding and a love that perseveres.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

*R.* Amen.

## ORDER OF BLESSING

### INTRODUCTORY RITES

**621** When the community has gathered, a suitable song may be sung. After the singing, the celebrant says:

**In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.**

All make the sign of the cross and reply:

Amen.

**622** The celebrant greets those present in the following or other suitable words, taken mainly from sacred Scripture.

**May God, the source and origin of all, from whom every good thing comes to us, be with you all.**

All make the following or some other suitable reply.

And also with you.

**623** In the following or similar words, the celebrant prepares those present for the blessing.

**God has given us our physical powers in order that we may serve him joyously, help one another, and, by discipline in accord with the law of God, make our body fit for every good work. God therefore approves of recreation for the relaxation of the mind and the exercise of the body. Care of our bodies fosters mental well-being, and we more readily establish friendly and affable relations with other people.**

### READING OF THE WORD OF GOD

**624** A reader, another person present, or the celebrant reads a text of sacred Scripture.



**The birds of the air, the fishes of the sea,  
and whatever swims the paths of the seas. R̄.**

Psalm 104:1-2a, 10-12, 25, 27-28

R̄. (v. 27) All look to you to give them their food in due season.

Psalm 147:5-6, 7-8, 9-11

R̄. (v. 1a) O praise the Lord! How good to sing praise to our God.

737 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.

## INTERCESSIONS

738 As circumstances suggest, the prayer of blessing may be preceded by the intercessions. The minister introduces them and an assisting minister or one of those present announces the intentions. From the following intentions those best suited to the occasion may be used or adapted, or other intentions that apply to the particular circumstances may be composed. The intentions are followed immediately by the prayer of blessing, no. 740 or no. 741.

The minister says:

**God created us and placed us on this earth to be the stewards of all living things and so to proclaim the glory of their Creator. Let us, then, praise God, saying:**

R̄. How wonderful are the works of your hands, O Lord!

Or:

R̄. Blessed be God for ever.

Assisting minister:

**Blessed are you, O Lord, who created the animals and gave us the ability to train them to help us in our work. (Let us bless the Lord:) R̄.**

**Antiphon 1**

Come back to the Lord with all your heart;  
leave the past in ashes,  
and turn to God with tears and fasting,  
for he is slow to anger and ready to forgive.

**Antiphon 2**

Let the priests and ministers of the Lord  
lament before his altar, and say:  
Spare us, Lord; spare your people!  
Do not let us die for we are crying out to you.

**Antiphon 3**

Lord, take away our wickedness.

*These may be repeated after each verse of Psalm 51, Have mercy on me, O God.*

**Responsory**

Direct our hearts to better things, O Lord;  
heal our sin and ignorance.  
Lord, do not face us suddenly with death,  
but give us time to repent.

- R.** Turn to us with mercy, Lord: we have sinned against you.
- V.** Help us, God our savior, rescue us for the honor of your name.
- R.** Turn to us with mercy, Lord; we have sinned against you.

**1076** *After the giving of ashes the minister's hands are washed; the rite concludes with the general intercessions and the final blessing.*

**INTERCESSIONS**

**1077** *The intercessions are then said. The minister introduces them and an assisting minister or one of those present announces*