

RECOGNITION & INSTALLATION OF CATECHISTS

This Order has been drawn from the CCCB Publication *Celebrations of Installation and Recognition*, pp. 158-167 and adapted for use in the Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth. [August 2023] and further adapted for use during the Holy Year 2025.

INTRODUCTION

The readings and prayers for the Sunday should be used. The following should be observed as appropriate.

374. In the following or similar words, the presider briefly addresses those present, in order to introduce the celebration.

Today in our Archdiocese we are celebrating those who serve in the area of Catechesis,

For the pastoral activity of the Church
the cooperation of a great many people is needed,
so that communities as well as individuals
may advance to full maturity in faith
and continually show forth their faith
through the celebration of the liturgy, through study,
and through their manner of life.
This cooperation is provided in part by those who devote themselves to catechesis.

Enlightened by God's Word and the teaching of the Church,
catechists impart to others an initiation or a deeper formation
in those realities that they themselves have learned
as truths to be followed in their daily living and practice of the faith.

Catechesis is one of the four Pastoral Priorities
of the Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth.
Catechesis is an important part of the ongoing process of faith development
which brings baptized believers to a deepened and matured spiritual life,
and equips them to be missionary disciples
ready to participate in the work of evangelization

and the pastoral accompaniment of others.

Today at Mass we bless the name of the Lord
for giving us such co-workers who will serve *N.* parish as catechists
and pray that through the Holy Spirit
they will receive the grace they need in their service to the Church.

375. The penitential rite continues as usual. On a Sunday, the Glory to God follows, except during the seasons of Advent and Lent.

OPENING PRAYER

376. The opening prayer is taken from the Mass of the day.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

377. The readings are taken from the liturgy of the day.

HOMILY

382. In the homily, the presider relates the readings to the mystery of Christ being celebrated and, as circumstances require, may give a brief explanation of the ministry of catechist.

This would be an ideal occasion to preach on the pastoral priority of Catechesis and how it is being experienced and lived out in the local parish.

RECOGNITION

383. After the homily, the presider says:

Let those who will be catechists please come forward.

Another minister calls the name of each catechist, and they stand before the assembly.

PRAYER OF BLESSING

384. The presider says:

Let us pray.

All pray silently for a while.

Then the presider extends his hands and continues:

Blessed are you, Lord God,
king and ruler of heaven and earth:
through your Son you have brought us salvation,
and in his Holy Spirit, you lead us to all truth.

In your mercy and love, help these men and women
who are prepared to help your people to grow in faith.
Bless them + and cleanse their hearts,
so that they may proclaim your Word in their daily lives.
Help them to be men and women of faith and prayer,
guided by your Spirit and filled with your love.

Let them share their faith and love
with their families, their friends, their students,
at home, in the classroom, and in our community.
May their words and their lives
lead your people to stronger faith and love.
Through their work, may your kingdom come among us,
and lead us to serve you each day.

Hear our prayer, we pray, O God,
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

All:

Amen.

PRESENTATION

385. The presider may present a Bible or a New Testament or some other sign or tool for ministry to the catechists. These or similar words may be used individually or for the entire group.

N., receive the Word of God.

Be worthy of the message you teach to the people of God,
and may you build up the faith and love of the Church through catechesis.

The catechist responds:

Amen.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

388. The catechists return to their places and the Universal Prayer follows.

Some or all of the following prayers should be used and may be adapted according to the circumstances of the parish.

1. For all the nations of the world, that they may come to know the one true God, and Jesus Christ whom he has sent.
2. For catechesis throughout the Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth, that the Lord of the harvest will send labourers into His vineyard to serve as catechists.
3. For catechists serving in our parish and throughout the Archdiocese, that they may be strengthened by the Holy Spirit to carry out their ministry.
4. For all of us gathered here, that we will be drawn into an ongoing process of catechesis that will bring us to spiritual maturity and prepare us to become missionary disciples for our local Church.

The Profession of Faith is said or sung.

389. The celebration of the Eucharist continues as usual. It is appropriate for some of the catechists to present the gifts of bread and wine for the celebration.

SOLEMN BLESSING

391. The presider may conclude with a solemn blessing.

The blessing is principally directed toward the catechists with the final part being for all present.

Presider:

The Lord be with you.

All:

And with your Spirit.

Deacon, or in the absence of a deacon, the priest himself:

Bow down for the blessing.

The Father has revealed to us the splendor of his truth and love.

May you be effective witnesses of His divine revelation.

R. Amen.

The Lord Jesus promised to be with His Church until the end of the world.

May you make Him present by your ministry of catechesis.

R. Amen.

The Holy Spirit renewed the whole of creation.

May your proclamation of the Gospel reap a bountiful harvest.

R. Amen.

And he blesses all the people, adding:

And may almighty God bless all of you, who are gathered here,
the Father, and the Son + and the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Then the deacon, or in the absence of a deacon the priest himself, says the dismissal using one of the four options given in the Roman Missal.

1. Go forth, the Mass is ended.
2. Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.
3. Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.
4. Go in peace.

R. Thanks be to God.