

Blessings of the Catechumens

- 95** The blessings of the catechumens are a sign of God's love and of the Church's tender care. They are bestowed on the catechumens so that, even though they do not as yet have the grace of the sacraments, they may still receive from the Church courage, joy, and peace as they proceed along the difficult journey they have begun.
- 96** The blessings may be given by a priest, a deacon, or a qualified catechist appointed by the bishop. The blessings are usually given at the end of a celebration of the word; they may also be given at the end of a meeting for catechesis. When there is some special need, the blessings may be given privately to individual catechumens.

Prayers of Blessing

- 97** The celebrant, with hands outstretched over the catechumens, says one of the following prayers. After the prayer of blessing, if this can be done conveniently, the catechumens come before the celebrant, who lays hands on them individually. Then the catechumens leave.

Let us pray,

A Lord,
form these catechumens by the mysteries of the faith,
that they may be brought to rebirth in baptism
and be counted among the members of your Church.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

B Father,
through your holy prophets
you proclaimed to all who draw near you,
'Wash and be cleansed;
and through Christ you have granted us rebirth in the Spirit.

Bless these your servants
as they earnestly prepare for baptism.

Fulfill your promise:
sanctify them in preparation for your gifts,
that they may come to be reborn as your children
and enter the community of your Church.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

C God of power,
look upon these your servants
as they deepen their understanding of the Gospel.

Grant that they may come to know and love you
and always heed your will
with receptive minds and generous hearts.

Teach them through this time of preparation
And enfold them within your Church,
So that they may share your holy mysteries
Both on earth and in heaven.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

D God our Father,
you have sent your only Son, Jesus Christ,
to free the world from falsehood.

Give to your catechumens fullness of understanding,
unwavering faith,
and a firm grasp of your truth.

Let them grow ever stronger,
that they may receive in due time the new birth of baptism
that gives pardon of sins,
and join with us in praising your name.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

E Almighty and eternal God,
you dwell on high yet look on the lowly;
to bring us your gift of salvation
you sent Jesus your Son,
our Lord and God.

Look kindly on these catechumens,
who bow before you in worship;
prepare them for their rebirth in baptism,
the forgiveness of their sins,
and the garment of incorruptible life.

Enfold them in your holy, catholic, and apostolic Church,
that they may join with us

in giving glory to your name.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

F Lord of all,
through your only begotten Son
you cast down Satan
and broke the chains that held us captive.

We thank you for these catechumens
whom you have called.

Strengthen them in faith,
that they may know you, the one true God,
and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

Keep them clean of heart and make them grow in virtue,
that they may be worthy to receive baptism
and enter into the holy mysteries.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen

G Lord God,
you desire that all be saved
and come to the knowledge of truth.

Enliven with faith those who are preparing for baptism;
bring them into the fold of your Church,
there to receive the gift of eternal life.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

H God of power and Father of our Savior Jesus Christ,
look kindly upon these your servants.

Drive from their minds all taint of false worship
and stamp your law and commands on their hearts.

Lead them to full knowledge of the truth
and prepare them to be the temple of the Holy Spirit
through their rebirth in baptism.

Grant this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

I Lord,

look with love on your servants,
who commit themselves to your name
and bow before you in worship.

Help them to accomplish what is good;
arouse their hearts,
that they may always remember your works and your commands
and eagerly embrace all that is yours.

Grant this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.