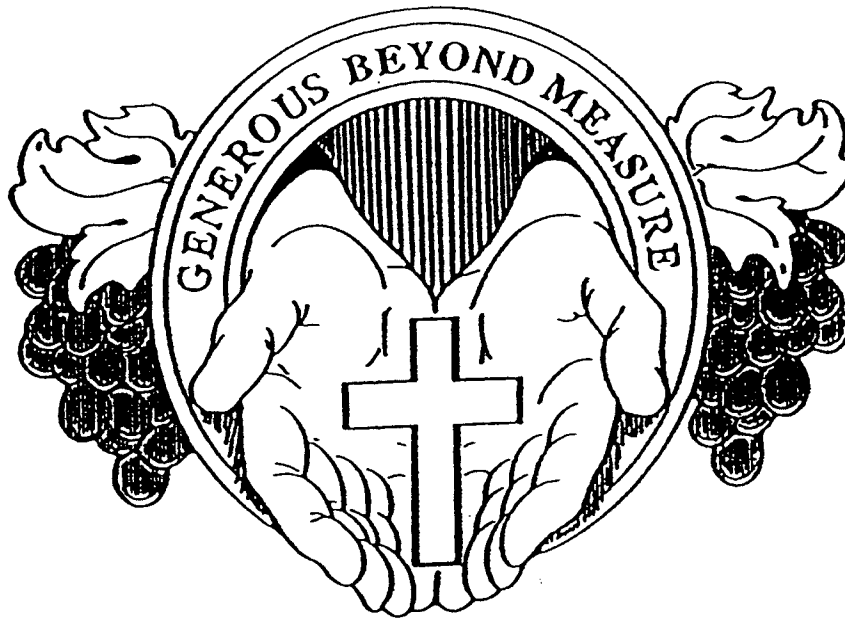


Parish Observance of Catechetical Sunday



INTRODUCTION

After the homily and creed, the priest should describe the purpose and importance of the Rite of Commissioning, making sure to include all the catechetical ministries (RCIA, PREP, catechists, school, Liturgy of the Word, and any catechetical ministry for children).

INSTRUCTION

Priest:

The members of Christ's Mystical Body are as varied as the members of the human body. This means that there are also a variety of functions to be exercised to build up the whole body. Some are called to be prophets, healers or administrators. Some, like yourselves, are called to be teachers and catechists. Your mandate is to teach the saving truths of our faith to the adults in the RCIA process, as well as to the young people of our parish.

CALL

Priest:

Let those who are about to be commissioned as catechists please come forward.
(The president of the parish council, the RCIA coordinator, the PREP coordinator, the school principal or other parish leader calls out the names of the catechists who then step forward).

General Intercessions

Priest:

As a sign of our concern and support, let us join in prayer for these members of our community and for all who are called to service in the Church. (Silent pause after which the lector or a catechist prays the general intercessions which includes prayers for all ministries represented).

Commitment of the Catechists:

Priest:

My brothers and sisters, Jesus said to His disciples, " Go into the world and preach the Gospel to all nations. " Will you continue to grow as disciples of the Lord by making every effort to hear the Word of God, integrate His Word into your lives, and share His Word with others?

Catechists:

I will.

Priest:

Are you prepared to fulfill the responsibilities which this service requires in fostering the faith of those directly entrusted in your care?

Catechists:

I am.

Priest:

Then this parish community gratefully accepts your willingness to respond to God's call and, on behalf of His Grace, Archbishop Adam Exner, I commission you to be catechists in this parish.

Commitment of the Community

Priest:(To the community)

My brothers and sisters of _____ parish, we all share in the ministry of catechetics. Do you pledge your support to these men and women called by God in our midst, and commissioned as catechists in our various catechetical ministries (name PREP, school, RCIA etc.)?

Community:

We do.

Priest:

Will you endeavour through prayer, witness and participation in our parish programs and RCIA process, to continue to be ministers of God's word in your family, so that we may grow together in faith and charity?

Community:

We will.

Priest:

Then, on behalf of our parish, I accept your commitment to participate in and to support the catechetical programs and RCIA process in our parish.

Presentation of the Archdiocesan Commissioning Pin

(Optional) The pastor gives each catechist a Commissioning Pin and or Certificate as a sign of his / her office.

Priest:

Receive this _____ pin as a sign of your commitment to the catechetical ministry of our parish. It carries with it a pledge of our support through witness work and prayer.

Community Response:

The pastor invites the community to demonstrate its support and recognition by applauding. Catechists return to their places and the Liturgy of the Eucharist begins with some of the catechists presenting the gifts.