



Overview of the Organization of the Book of Blessings (1989)

EXAMPLE Part I Blessings Directly Pertaining to Persons

Chapter 1 Orders for the Blessing of Families and Members of Families

- I. Order for the Blessing of a Family
 - A. Order of Blessing
 - B. Order of Blessing Within Mass
- II. Order for the Annual Blessing of Families in Their Own Homes
- III. Orders for the Blessing of a Married Couple
This includes within Mass, on the Anniversary of Marriage and on Other Occasions. Also includes outside Mass, and a Shorter Rite.
- IV. Orders for the Blessing of Children
This includes Blessing of Baptized Children, Children not yet Baptized, and a Shorter Rite.
- V. Order for the Blessing of Sons and Daughters
- VI. Order for the Blessing of an Engaged Couple
- VII. Order for the Blessing of the Parents before Childbirth
This also includes a Shorter Rite.
- VIII. Orders for the Blessing of a Mother before Childbirth and after Childbirth
Included are two Shorter Rites for each Blessing.
- IX. Order for the Blessing of Parents after a Miscarriage
This includes a Shorter Rite.
- X. Order for the Blessing of Parents and an Adopted Child
- XI. Order of Blessing on the Occasion of a Birthday
This includes a Shorter Rite also.
- XII. Order for the Blessing of Elderly People Confined to Their Homes
This includes a Blessing within Mass, with Communion outside of Mass, and a Shorter Rite.

The boxed sample lists the contents of Chapter 1, in abbreviated form.

Ministers (lay or ordained—the text designates clearly, with rubrics) seeking a blessing text can choose from:

- 71 Chapters of Blessing texts
 - Each Chapter includes an Introduction
 - Divided into 6 Parts (headings)
 - 1- Blessings Directly Pertaining to Persons (1-9)
 - 2- Blessings Related to Buildings and to Various Forms of Human Activity (10-30)
 - 3- Blessings of Objects That Are Designed or Erected for use in Churches, either in the Liturgy or in Popular Devotions (31-43)
 - 4- Blessings of Articles Meant to Foster the Devotion of the Christian People (44-46)
 - 5- Blessings Related to Feasts and Seasons (47-59)
 - 6- Blessings for Various Needs and Occasions (60-71)
 - Each Part includes an Introduction (Part One Introduction is titled “General Introduction”)
 - Supplemented by Appendix I and Appendix II
- Appendix I is the Order for the Installation of a Pastor
Included is Installation Rite when a Bishop Presides, and Installation Rite when a Priest Presides—both occurring during Mass. Although not strictly considered a Blessing, this Order for Installation...this Order intends to complement the Blessings of Part VI (Blessings for Various Needs and Occasions.

Appendix II includes Solemn Blessings and Prayers over the People (these are taken from the Roman Missal, and reprinted before the 3rd edition of the RM was promulgated in 2011). *The Solemn Blessings and Prayers Over the People are updated and more expansive in the Roman Missal, 3rd edition.*

