

## Principal Resource

### **Book of Blessings**

Prepared by International Commission on English in the Liturgy [ICEL], Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 1989. *This approved text is in English.*

## Primary Resources

**Book of Blessings** Abridged edition, prepared by the International Commission on English in the Liturgy [ICEL]. Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 1992. *This ritual book is pocket-sized and contains rites to be used outside Mass or outside of the church. Part III from the original Book of Blessings has been omitted, and all blessings that typically occur during Mass are omitted. As a result, there is a difference in numbering in the abridged edition, but the sequence of blessings remains essentially the same.*

**Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers** Prepared by The Bishop's Committee on the Liturgy, National Conference of Catholic Bishops. United States Catholic Conference: Washington, D.C., 1988. *There also exists a Revised Edition that features an updated liturgical calendar, and some of the newer prayers attributed to Pope John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI, and the USCCB. Revision includes Scripture index and a first-line index. Expect more pages than the original.*

**Bendicional** Prepared by the Congregación para el Culto Divino, México, in Español. Obra Nacional de la Buena Prensa: A.C. México, 2020. *The Bendicional contains approved texts for Mexico, by la Conferencia del Episcopado Mexicano. This text is widely used for blessing of people, objects, and actions both within and outside of Mass in the U.S., when Spanish is the preferred language for blessing-prayers.*

## Suggested Resources: For Sacristy, Home, and School

### **Order for the Blessing on the Fifteenth Birthday -Bendición Al Cumplir Quince Años**

Prepared by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington D.C., 2008, 2019. *Bilingual English-Spanish booklet contains the Order for the Blessing on the Fifteenth Birthday, adapted by the USCCB from the Order of Blessing on the Occasion of a Birthday (1988). It was created to honor the custom (of some Spanish-speaking countries) of celebrating the passage from childhood to adolescence. Blessing may occur within or outside of Mass.*

**A Ritual for Laypersons: Rites for Holy Communion and the Pastoral Care of the Sick and Dying**

Published with the approval of the Committee on Divine Worship, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Collegeville, MN: Order of St. Benedict, Liturgical Press 2013. *This book gathers in one place rites excerpted from Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist outside Mass, Pastoral Care of the Sick: Rites of Anointing and Viaticum, and the Order of Christian Funerals. This ritual book is useful for lay persons, as well as priests and deacons. It contains a wide variety of Scripture readings and prayers, and is sized to be fully portable for pastoral caregivers.*

**Blessings and Prayers for Home and Family**

Prepared for the National Liturgy Office (in English) from the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, Ottawa, CANADA. Published by CCCB Publications: Ottawa, Ontario, 2008. *Focused primarily on the family and the activities of the domestic church, this publication is useful for marking milestones and offering solace in times of crisis. It typically is arranged for one speaker, and blessings can be easily personalized.*

**Order of Crowning An Image of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

Prepared by the Congregation for Divine Worship (1981), this was approved by the Bishops' Committee on the Liturgy, National Conference of Catholic Bishops (1987). New Jersey: Catholic Book Publishing Corp., 2005. *Hardcover ritual book that contains ritual and blessings for crowning an image of the Blessed Mother within Mass, within Evening Prayer, and within a Liturgy of the Word celebration. The Rite of Crowning...is a liturgical action (a sacramental) that contains elements of both blessing and praise.*

**Blessings for God's People: A Book of Blessings for All Occasions (Thomas G. Simons)**

Notre Dame, IN: Ave Maria Press, 1995. *Arranged in the format of Daily, Weekly, Yearly, and Occasional Blessings, this book draws upon a basic structure of invitation to prayer, Scripture reading, intercessory prayer, and the blessing prayer/gesture. This structure is consistent throughout. The blessings draw from a rich variety of sources, and include a wide variety of occasions for blessing. Brief Scriptural blessings are added at the end of the book: pearls of great price.*

**Blessings and Prayers Throughout the Year: A Resource for School, Parish, and Home (Elizabeth McMahan Jeep)**

Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 2004. *This resource is a seasonally-organized (liturgical and monthly), creative compendium of blessings and blessing-rituals, with music resources included as CD's inside the back cover. Feasts, cycles, seasons are honored for Catholic students, to be used by principals, catechists, classroom teachers, and parish families. Prayer texts are derived from approved Catholic resources and publishers. Art in the text is carefully and attractively focused.*

## Commentary: Liturgical Services that Include Blessings

*Commentary: Liturgical books that are used in the context of worship, either within Mass or outside of Mass, typically contain a particular blessing at the end of the service. This follows a format that is used by the Church for liturgical prayer. Familiarity with the liturgical books of the Church provides a wealth of blessings (consider “sendings” and also “commendations”) that can be used as liturgical actions for the People of God. Lay ministers and also ordained ministers of the Church can research and share the abundant resources that many ritual books present.*

**As an example, look to the Order of Celebrating Matrimony (English translation ICEL, 2013)** for the Order of Blessing of an Engaged Couple, as well as the Order of Blessing a Married Couple within Mass on the Anniversary of Marriage. The **Order of Christian Funerals (1989)** offers intercessions and commendations throughout the text. These generally lead to a concluding rite that contains a blessing.

**Prayer Services for Times of Need** (Liturgy Training Publications, Archdiocese of Chicago, 2021) *The crises that reflect our need for social justice as a response to current catastrophes are the subject of nineteen contemporary liturgical prayer services. Each of these services contains/leads to a blessing that links directly or indirectly to Catholic social teaching.*

**The Roman Missal** (English translation according to the third typical edition, USCCB 2011) *Specific review of the Indexes in the back of the Missal indicates a list of **Blessings at the End of Mass and Prayers Over the People** (under Order of Mass), twenty-eight in total. Appendix II indicates the Rite for Blessing and Sprinkling of Holy Water, and IV contains the Rite of Blessing a Chalice and a Paten Within Mass.*