

THE BOOK OF BLESSINGS

An Overview of the Chapters and a
Synopsis of the Proper Ministers of Each Rite



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KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

- X the *Book of Blessings* provides an order of blessing within Mass, outside Mass, and/or a shorter rite
- W the order outside Mass is set within a Celebration of the Word
- B bishop; he may preside at any blessing within the *Book of Blessings*
- P priest
- D deacon
- [D] a deacon may preside only if a bishop or priest is not present
- L lay person
- [L] a lay person may preside only if a bishop, priest, or deacon is not present
- Par parent
- Pas pastor
- C catechist
- S Superior of order
- Inst head of institute

BOOK OF BLESSINGS: AN OVERVIEW

BLESSINGS DIRECTLY PERTAINING TO PERSONS

	<u>Outside Mass</u>	<u>Within Mass</u>	<u>Shorter Rite</u>	<u>Minister</u>
Family	x	x		PDL
Families in their own homes	x			PD
Married Couple	x	x	x	PD [L]
on Anniversary		x		
on Other Occasions		x		
Children			x	PDL
Baptized	x			
Not Yet Baptized	x			
Sons and Daughters	x			PDPar
Engaged Couple	x			PDLPar
Parents before Childbirth	x		x	PDL
Mother before Childbirth	x		x	PDL
Mother after Childbirth	x		x	PDL
Parents after Miscarriage	x		x	PDL
Parents and an Adopted Child	x			PDL
Occasion of a Birthday	x		x	PDL
Elderly People Confined to Homes	x	x	x	PDL
With Communion outside Mass	x			PDL
The Sick			x	PDL
Adults	x			PDL
Children	x			PDL
Person Suffering from Addiction/ Sub. Abuse	x		x	PDL
Victim of Crime or Oppression	x		x	PDL
Missionaries Sent to Proclaim Gospel	W	x		BP
Those Appointed as Catechists	W	x		PD
For a Catechetical or Prayer Meeting	x			PDL
Catechumens [RCIA #95-97]	x			PDC
Students and Teachers	W	x	x	PDL
Those Gathered at a Meeting				PDL
Prayers for Meetings	x			
Ecumenical Groups	x			
Interfaith Gatherings	x			
Organizations Concerned with Public Need	x			PD
Pilgrims --Departure, Return	x			PD
Travelers	x		x	PDL

BLESSINGS RELATED TO BUILDINGS AND VARIOUS FORMS OF HUMAN ACTIVITY

New Building Site	x			PD
New Home [occupants]	x			PDL
New Seminary	x			BP
New Religious House	x			BPS
New School or University	x	x		PD
New Library	x			PD
New Parish Hall or Catechetical Center	x			PD
New Hospital/Facility for Sick	x			PD

Office, Shop, or Factory	x			PD
Centers of Social Communication	x			PD
Gymnasium or Athletic Fields	x			PD
Various Means of Transportation	x		x	PDL
Boats [Fleets] and Fishing Gear	x		x	PDL
Technical Installations/Equipment	x			PDL
Tools/Equipment for Work	x		x	PDL
Animals	x		x	PDL
Fields and Flocks	x			PDL
Seeds at Planting Time	x		x	PDL
Occasion of Thanksgiving for Harvest	x			PDL
Athletic Event	x			PDL
Before and After Meals [4 Plans/Seasons]	x			PDL

BLESSINGS OF OBJECTS THAT ARE DESIGNED OR ERECTED FOR USE IN CHURCHES, EITHER IN THE LITURGY OR IN POPULAR DEVOTIONS

Baptistry or New Baptismal Font	x			BP[D]
Joined with celebration of baptism	x			
Without celebration of baptism	x			
Repository for Holy Oils	W	x	x	PD
Episcopal or Presidential Chair	W	x		B/P
Lectern	W	x		BP
Tabernacle	x			BP
Confessional [outside or within Pen. Service]	x	never		BP
New Church Doors	x			BP
New Cross for Public Veneration	x			BP
Image of our Lord Jesus Christ	x	never		BP
Image of the Blessed Virgin Mary	x	never		BP
Images of the Saints	x	never		BP
Bells	x			BP
Organ	x			BP
Articles for Liturgical Use	x	x	x	BP [D]
Chalice and Paten	W	x		BP
Holy Water Outside Mass	x			PD
Stations of Cross	x			BP
Cemetery	x			BP

BLESSING OF ARTICLES MEANT TO FOSTER DEVOTION OF THE CHRISTIAN PEOPLE

Religious Articles	x		x	PD
Rosaries	x		x	PD
Blessing and Conferral of Scapular	x			Inst.

BLESSINGS RELATED TO FEASTS AND SEASONS

Advent Wreath	W	x	x	PDPar.
Christmas Manger or Nativity Scene	W	x	x	PDL
Christmas Tree	x		x	PDL

Homes during the Christmas & Easter Seasons	x		x	PDL
Throats on Feast of Saint Blasé (Feb. 3)	W	x	x	PDL
Blessing and Distribution of Ashes (Ash Wed)	x			PD [L]
St. Joseph's Table (March 19)	x		x	PDL
Blessing of Food for First Meal of Easter	x		x	PDL
Mothers on Mother's Day (2nd Sunday of May)	x			P
Fathers on Father's Day (3 rd Sunday of June)	x			P
Visiting a Cemetery on All Souls Day (Nov 2), Memorial Day, or Anniversary of Death or Burial	x			PDL
Blessing of Food for Thanksgiving Day	W	x	x	PDL
Food/Drink/Other for Devotions	x	x (Feast)		PD

BLESSINGS FOR VARIOUS NEEDS AND OCCASIONS

Those Who Exercise Pastoral Service	W	x		PD
Readers	W	x		PasPD
Altar Servers, Sacristans, Musicians, Ushers	W	x		PasPD
Commissioning of Extraordinary Ministers HC	W	x		PasPD
Parish Council	W	x		PasPD
Officers of Parish Societies	x			PasPD
Welcoming of New Parishioners	x			Pastor
Departing Parishioner	x			Pastor
Those Receiving Ecclesiastical Honors	x			B
On Occasion Inauguration of a Public Official	x			PDL
Blessing in Thanksgiving	x			PDL
Blessing to be used in Various Circumstances	x			PDL

APPENDICES

Installation of a Pastor				
When the Bishop Presides		x		B
When a Priest Presides		x		P
Solemn Blessings				<i>May conclude any blessing in Book of Blessings, Morning or Evening Prayer, or any occasion when a priest or deacon presides</i>
Advent				
Christmas				
Beginning of New Year				
Epiphany				
Lent				
Passion of the Lord				
Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday				
Easter Season				
Ascension				
Holy Spirit				
Ordinary Time I -V				
Peter and Paul				
Apostles				
All Saints				
Dedication of a Church				
The Dead				

Prayers over the People -- General, On Feasts of Saints