



Order for the Blessing of Books *U.S. Catholic Catechism for Adults*

INTRODUCTION

- i. The 125th anniversary celebration of the establishment of the Catholic Diocese of Belleville and our yearlong study of the ***United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*** provides a valuable opportunity to invite the lay faithful to examine together as a diocesan family the richness of our Catholic faith and encourage each other along our lifelong journey toward holiness and eternal life.
- ii. Catechisms are placed on a table in the sanctuary, or, if already distributed held by people in the pews at the appropriate time.
- iii. Mass begins in the usual way and continues through the homily. After the homily, the celebrant, in these or similar words, prepares those present for the blessing.

The Word of God, which comes from and leads back to Him who is Truth itself, is living and effective. His Word runs swiftly; truth is imparted when it is preached, read in books, or conveyed by other communications media. It is God who inspires in the human spirit the desire to record and preserve discoveries of the human mind that open the way to truth through the written word and other means. The Books of the Bible, because they are inspired by the Holy Spirit contain the truth in a unique way.

Other spiritual books contribute to human thought and discourse as well. The study of the ***United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*** supports the ongoing conversion of our entire beings to God's call to holiness and eternal life.

At its heart is the celebration of the Christian mysteries, especially the Eucharist and the life of prayer. Users of the ***Catechism*** are called to witness Christ, the Church and God's Kingdom of salvation, love, justice, mercy, and peace in the world.

It is therefore fitting that these books, as a form of spreading divine truth, should have the support of God's blessing.

- iv. If people have their books in the pews with them, they are invited to hold them during the “Prayer of Blessing.” If books are on a table in the sanctuary, celebrant moves to table.

PRAYER OF BLESSING

- v. With hands outstretched, the celebrant says the prayer of blessing.

Lord, our God,
We proclaim your majesty.
In many and varied ways,
you continuously reveal yourself to us.
In the Bible you have handed down your inspired word.
Listen to our prayers,
that all who use these books
may always be open to the wisdom of your Word.
Grant that, imbued with true learning,
we will strive to create a more civilized world.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

- vi. After the prayer of blessing, the celebrant sprinkles congregation and the books with holy water.
- vii. The Mass continues in the usual way.

INTERCESSIONS (SAMPLES)

Christ our Redeemer, the Word and Wisdom of the Father, you are the true light that gives light to everyone; show us the way of truth. We pray...

You promised your followers the Holy Spirit to teach them all truth, so that they would see more deeply into the divine mysteries; grant that, inspired and empowered by that same Spirit, we may be equipped and ready for every good work. We pray...

You willed that many of your deeds should be handed down in writing, so that we might believe, and, in believing, have life in your Name; grant that, strong in faith, we may be eager to open up for others the path of truth and salvation. We pray...

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