

COMMISSIONING SERVICE

INTRODUCTORY RITES

Archbishop:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

Archbishop:

May the God of love and peace be with you all.

All: And with your spirit.

Archbishop:

The needs of the Church are many and varied but God shows his goodness by sending pastoral workers to care for the members of Christ's Body, especially the poor and the weak. Today we ask God to bless our brothers and sisters who have declared their willingness to serve the Church.

READING OF THE WORD OF GOD

Matthew 9:35-38

Archbishop:

Brothers and sisters, let us listen to the words of the holy Gospel according to Matthew:

Reader:

Jesus went around to all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and curing every disease and illness. At the sight of the crowds, his heart was moved with pity for them because they were troubled and abandoned, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest."

INTERCESSIONS

Archbishop:

Let us now ask God to strengthen and bless our brothers and sisters as they take on the responsibility of leadership for our Parish Council.

Reader:

For our parish, that through our pastoral service we may grow to a greater love of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

For the work and ministry of the Parish Council; that their work may lighten the burdens of others and they may assist those they serve in their struggles, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

For all within the Archdiocese of St. Louis, that through our endeavors, may we grow in faith, hope, and love, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Archbishop:

Let us now pray together to the Father in the words Jesus gave us:

All: Our Father.....

PRAYER OF BLESSING

Archbishop:

Lord God, in your loving kindness you sent your Son to be our shepherd and guide. Continue to send workers into your vineyard to sustain and direct your people.

Bless the leaders of our Parish Council. Let your Spirit uphold them always as they take up their new responsibility to serve the needs and people of this parish.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

CONCLUDING RITES

Archbishop:

May almighty God bless you in his mercy, and make you aware of his saving wisdom.

All: Amen.

Archbishop:

May he strengthen your faith with proofs of his love, so that you may persevere in good works.

All: Amen.

Archbishop:

May he direct your steps to himself and show you how to walk in charity and peace.

All: Amen.

Archbishop:

And may almighty God bless you all, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.