
BLESSING OF A PRIEST BY THE CONGREGATION

To be led by the deacon of the parish, following the *Prayer after Communion*, at the announcement-time of the Mass. Could also be led by a lay person (lector suggested) from the ambo. Suggest that this be the "last announcement" and that announcements be kept to a minimum to allow time for this blessing.

(The assembly is standing) Deacon is standing in front of his chair in sanctuary, takes script:

Deacon (leader):

Brothers and sisters in Christ, today we ask God's blessing for our priest(s), Father _____, in celebration of his "yes" to the vocation of the priesthood. Today we celebrate National Priesthood Sunday. Please bow your heads and pray with me.

(continue) Good and gracious God, we praise your wisdom and give thanks to the Holy Spirit for Father _____'s generous response to your call. As a community of faith, we bless his generosity, his kindness, and his sacrificial love of God and of this community. May we always support and affirm his vocation, and may our prayers rise up like incense, especially this weekend, as we give thanks for the ordained priesthood of Father _____.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ.

R. Amen.

(A sign of the cross should not accompany this blessing; the words are sufficient.)

The Mass continues with the Concluding Rites: Blessing and Dismissal.