Blessing of a Home

A home should not be blessed unless those who will live in it are present.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

When the family members, their relatives and friends have gathered in a convenient place, the minister says:

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

All make the Sign of the Cross and reply: Amen.

Minister: May the God whom we glorify with one heart and voice enable us, through the Spirit, to live in harmony as followers of Christ Jesus, now and for ever.

R: Amen.

Minister: When Christ took flesh through the Blessed Virgin Mary, he made his home with us. Let us now pray that he will enter this home and bless it with his presence.

May he always be here among you; may he nurture your love for each other, share in your joys, and comfort you in your sorrows. Inspired by his teachings and example, seek to make your home before all else a dwelling place of love, diffusing far and wide the goodness of Christ.

READING OF THE WORD OF GOD

A reader (either the minister or another person) reads the text of Sacred Scripture (Luke 19:1-9).

Brothers and sisters, listen to the words of the holy Gospel according to Luke:

He came to Jericho and intended to pass through the town. Now a man there named Zacchaeus, who was a chief tax collector and also a wealthy man, was seeking to see who Jesus was; but he could not see him because of the crowd, for he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree in order to see Jesus, who was about to pass that way. When he reached the place, Jesus looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, come down quickly, for today I must stay at your house.” And he came down quickly and received him with joy.

When they all saw this, they began to grumble, saying, “He has gone to stay at the house of a sinner.”

But Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, “Behold, half of my possessions, Lord, I shall give to the poor, and if I have extorted anything from anyone I shall repay it four times over.”

And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house because this man too is a descendant of Abraham.”

Reader:

The Lord will build a house for us.

All reply:

The Lord will build a house for us.

Reader:

Unless the LORD builds the house, they who build labor in vain.

Unless the LORD guards the city, in vain does the guard keep watch.

R: The Lord will build a house for us.

Reader:

It is vain for you to rise early and put off your rest at night, To eat bread earned by hard toil—all this God gives to his beloved in sleep.

R: The Lord will build a house for us.

Reader:

Certainly sons are a gift from the LORD, the fruit of the womb, a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the sons born in one’s youth.

R: The Lord will build a house for us.
Reader:

Blessed is the man who has filled his quiver with them.
He will never be shamed for he will destroy his foes at the gate.

R: The Lord will build a house for us.

INTERCESSIONS

The minister introduces the intercessions and another one of those present announces them. Other intentions that apply to the particular circumstances may be composed (for example, for those family members who are away from home, are sick or have other special needs).

The minister says:

The Son of God, Lord of heaven and earth, made his home among us. With thankfulness and gladness let us call upon him, saying:

All reply: Stay with us, Lord.

Assisting minister:

Lord Jesus Christ, by your life with Mary and Joseph you sanctified the life of the home; dwell with us in our home, so that we may have you as our guest and honor you as our Head. We pray to the Lord.

R: Stay with us, Lord.

In you every dwelling grows into a holy temple; grant that those who live in this house may be built up together into the dwelling place of God in the Holy Spirit. We pray to the Lord.

R: Stay with us, Lord.

You taught your followers to build their houses upon solid rock; grant that the members of this family may hold fast to your teachings and, free of all discord, serve you with their whole heart. We pray to the Lord.

R: Stay with us, Lord.

PRAYER OF BLESSING

A minister says the following prayer with hands joined:

Lord, be close to your servants who ask for your blessing.

Be their shelter when they are at home, their companion when they are away, and their welcome guest when they return. And at last receive them into the dwelling place you have prepared for them in your Father's house, where you live for ever and ever.

R: Amen.

After the Prayer of Blessing, the minister sprinkles those present and the home with holy water and during the sprinkling may say:

Let this water call to mind our baptism into Christ, who has redeemed us by his death and resurrection.

R: Amen.

The minister may go throughout the house and bless each room.

CONCLUDING RITE

The minister concludes the rite by saying:

May the peace of Christ rule in our hearts, and may the word of Christ in all its richness dwell in us, so that whatever we do in word and in work, we will do in the name of the Lord.

R: Amen.

The celebration may be concluded with “Now Thank We All Our God” or another suitable song.

Adapted from “The Order for the Blessing of a New Home” from the 1987 Book of Blessings.