

The Catholic Evangelizer's Commissioning Rite at the end of RCIA Mystagogy

Catechist (*holding the only lit candle*): We have reached the end of the time spent together in training and faith formation, and now you are being sent forth to do the work that the Lord Jesus Christ is calling you to do. All those who say yes to this calling, please stand up.

Participants rise; Catechist lights one or two neophytes' candles, who spread it to others).

Catechist: I congratulate you on choosing to accept the call to evangelize. Please show your commitment to this by answering the following questions with your "YES":

Scripture says in Matt. 28:18-20: Jesus came to them and said, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. Be assured, I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Do you believe that Jesus is speaking to you, asking you to go forth from here and make disciples wherever you He sends you? (*Response: YES*)

Just before He ascended to heaven, Jesus said to the disciples: "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

Is it your desire today to receive this power? (*R: YES*)

And to be Christ's witness wherever you go? (*R: YES*)

Jesus told His disciples to love one another the way He has loved us. Will you evangelize by the way you give God's love to one another, caring for others, serving others, and listening to the needs of others? (*R: YES*)

In December of 1990, Pope John Paul II wrote "Redemptoris Missio" – The Mission of the Redeemer – in which he said:

"I wish to invite the Church to renew her missionary commitment.... For missionary activity renews the Church, revitalizes faith and Christian identity, and offers fresh enthusiasm and new incentive. Faith is strengthened when

it is given to others! It is in commitment to the Church's universal mission that the new evangelization of Christian peoples will find inspiration and support."

Do you accept your responsibilities in the Church's universal mission, and do you agree to accomplish this task in collaboration with the Church community, working toward unity with a spirit of cooperation, obedience to authority, and Christ-like, servant-style leadership with those under your authority? (*R: YES*)

Let us pray together:

PRAYER TO BECOME GOD'S INSTRUMENT

O, my heavenly Father,
I give all of my life to you
in the name of Your Son,
my Lord Jesus Christ, and through
the power of Your Holy Spirit.
I have heard You calling me,
and I choose to follow
where Your Son leads me.
I want to help others find their way
into Your kingdom.
I want to serve others
so that they can experience Your love.
Use me.
Use the hurts and sufferings I've endured.
Use the talents, the resources,
the time, the experiences,
the spiritual growth and everything else
You have given me.
Use me.
Help me to love all people unconditionally
to reveal Jesus to others through me.
Help me to grow in my desire to love
all people.
Today, and every day, help me to decrease
so that You may increase in me.
Help me to love purely, humbly,
and generously.
Show me how to receive more of Your love
so that I have more love to give.
Heal me of every obstacle
that holds me back from serving You.
I give You permission to change me.
Here I am, Lord,
I want to do Your will.
Amen.