

St. Padre Pio Center for Deliverance Counseling

Rituale Exorcismus domus

("Ritual of a House Exorcism")

(version 3.0)



This prayer is a private devotional. Although it contains official prayers of the Church, this Ritual House Exorcism does not itself have official approbation of the Church. Portions that are from official sources, listed in items 1-3 below, are marked with, † ; official prayers of old tradition are marked with ‡



This Prayer is adapted from portions of the following sources:

- 1) Order of Blessing of a New Home, Book of Blessings, Bishop's Committee on the Liturgy © 1989, pp. 237-242
- 2) Order for a Blessing to be Used in various Circumstances, Book of Blessings, Bishop's Committee on the Liturgy © 1989, pp. 755-763
- 3) Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers, Bishop's Committee on the Liturgy, National Conference of Catholic Bishops © 1988, pp. 297-301
- 4) Prayer Against Satan and the Rebellious Angels, Pope Leo XIII
- 5) *Exorcismus domus a daemonio* (exorcism of a house troubled with an evil spirit) , Appendix to an edition of the *Rituale Romanum*, A.D. 1621
- 6) Miscellaneous prayers compiled, adapted, or written by Bro. Ignatius Mary

The following items are required and need to be on hand as this prayer is recited:

- 1) Holy Water, in sufficient quantity to sprinkle in each room and around the exterior of the house.
- 2) Holy Salt, in sufficient quantity to spread a small amount in each room.
- 3) Blessed St. Benedict medals (dipped in Blessed Holy Oil, if possible) (enough for each room of the house, plus at least eight for the land around the house, if any)

As Christians there is no need to fear the devil and his minions. We must step up to his schemes and tactics to not allow him to have his way with us. Through the power of Christ, the Church and her sacramentals, and prayer we may make a stand. This House cleansing and blessing is taking a stand against evil and declaring: **This is a House of the Lord, depart all you who oppose our God.**

We do well to heed the words of Cardinal Suenens:

The Christian is not someone who lives in an obsessive or pathological fear of the Devil or the devils; he believes in the Lord's Resurrection, in the triumph of life over death, of love over hatred, of truth over falsehood, of light over the darkness of the night.

"We are a paschal people," said John Paul II to the blacks of Harlem, "and our song is 'Alleluia!'"

The Christian does not see any of the stages of the redemptive mystery in isolation: he knows that Good Friday is the price of Easter, and the Easter introduces the dawn of Pentecost. He lives by this triple mystery of Good Friday, Easter and Pentecost, inseparably united.

The Christian is not expected to direct his attention to the Devil or the devils as if they were foremost in the Church's mind. St. Theresa of Avila, with her magnificent common sense used to say: **"I don't understand those fears that make us cry 'the devil, the devil!' when we can say 'God, God!'"** (*Renewal & the Powers of Darkness*, Léon-Joseph Cardinal Suenens, n. 63)

If a priest or deacon is present, they should preside over this *Rituale Exorcismus domus*. If a layman presides he may say the prayers as written, or modified, where indicated, and gesture according to the instructions for laymen.

Opening: †

When the Prayer Team and others have gathered, all make the sign of the Cross as the minister says:

V. In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

℟. Amen.

A minister who is a priest or deacon greets those present in the following words:

V. May God, who is the fountain of all goodness, be with you all.

℟. And also with you.

A lay minister greets those present in the following words:

V. Brethren, let us bless and praise the Lord, the fountain of all goodness.
Blessed by God now and for every.

℟. Amen.

Prayers of Preparation:

All recite the following prayer:

Prayer to Put on the Armor of God

Father in heaven, I now make the decision to put on the Armor you provide us so as to be able to resist the devil's tactics. I stand my ground with truth buckled around my waist and integrity for a breastplate. I carry the shield of faith to put out the flaming arrows of the evil one. I accept salvation from God to be my helmet and I receive the word of God from the Spirit to use as a sword. Thank you Father for your provided Armor as my protection against the enemy. Amen.

(Eph 6:10, 11, 14, 16, 17)

Prayer for Filling of the Spirit

All recite the following prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, I want to belong to You from now on. I want to be free from the dominion of darkness and the rule of Satan, and I want to enter into Your Kingdom and be part of Your people. I will turn away from all sin, and I will avoid everything that leads me to sin and wrongdoing. I thank you Lord for forgiving my sins. Come into my heart as my personal savior and Lord. I offer my life to You, and I promise to obey You as my Lord and Master. I ask you to fill me with Your Holy Spirit. Amen.

Blessing of Persons †

A priest or deacon says the prayer of blessing with hands outstretched; a layman says the prayer with hands joined.

V. Lord, we, your people, pray for the gift of your holy blessing to ward off every harm and to bring to fulfillment every right desire. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

℞. Amen.

If a priest or deacon is he may bless those present with the following words:

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

℞. Amen.

If a layman is presiding, he makes the sign of the Cross on himself, and those present make the sign of the Cross on themselves, as the minister says:

V. May God, who is blessed above all, ✠ bless us in all things through Christ, so that whatever happens in our lives will work together for our good.

℞. Amen.

Prayers of Protection:



The minister leads in the following prayers of Protection:

V. Our Father, Who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy Will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.

℟. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

V. Hail Mary, Full of Grace, The Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

℟. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now, and at the hour of death. Amen.

V. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, ✠ and to the Holy Spirit.

℟. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

V. O My Sweet Jesus, forgive us our sins and save us from the fires of Hell.

℟. Lead all souls to Heaven, and help especially those who are most in need of Thy Mercy.

V. Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil.

℟. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do Thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host - by the Divine Power of God - cast into hell, Satan and all the evil spirits, who prowl through the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

V. Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, the one who crushes the serpent's head.

℟. Pray for us. Amen and Amen.

Hedge Prayer for Protection of this House

- V.** Trusting in the promise that whatever we ask the Father in Jesus' name He will do, We now approach You Father with confidence in Our Lord's words and in Your infinite power and love for us and for those who will live in this house, with the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, the Blessed Apostles Peter and Paul, Blessed Archangel Michael, the guardian angels of all those who will live in this house, with all the saints and angels of heaven, and Holy in the power of His blessed Name, to ask you Father to cleanse this house of all evil presences and protect it, and all those who shall live in this house from the infestation and harassment of the devil and his minions.

Father we ask in desire to serve You and adore You and to live our lives for You that You build a hedge of protection around this house and around all those who will live here, like that which surrounded Job. Help those who will live here to keep that hedge repaired and the gate locked so that the devil and his minions have no access or means to breach the hedge except by your expressed will.

Father, we are powerless against the spiritual forces of evil and recognize our utter dependence on You and Your power. Look with mercy upon us and upon all those who will live in this house. Do not look upon our sins, O Lord; rather, look at the sufferings of your Beloved Son and see the Victim who's bitter passion and death has reconciled us to You. By the victory of the cross, protect all those who will live in this house from all evil and rebuke any evil spirits who wish to attack, influence, or breach Your hedge of protection in any way. Send them back to Hell and fortify Your Hedge for our protection by the blood of Your Son, Jesus. Send your Holy Angels to watch over us and protect us.

Father, all of these things we ask in the most holy name of Jesus Christ, Your Son. Thank you, Father, for hearing our prayer. We love You, we worship You, we thank You and we trust in You.

R. Amen.

- V.** Our Father, Who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy Will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.

R. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

V. Hail Mary, Full of Grace, The Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

℟. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now, and at the hour of death. Amen.

V. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, ✠ and to the Holy Spirit.

℟. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

All recite the following in unison:

O My Sweet Jesus, forgive us our sins and save us from the fires of Hell. Lead all souls to Heaven, and help especially those who are most in need of Thy Mercy.

All recite the following in unison:

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do Thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host - by the Divine Power of God - cast into hell, Satan and all the evil spirits, who prowl through the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

V. Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, the one who crushes the serpent's head.

℟. Pray for us. Amen and Amen.

Breaking Household Curses and Spells

V. In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, strengthened by the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, of Blessed Michael the Archangel, of the Blessed Apostles Peter and Paul, and all the Saints, and powerful in the holy authority of His Precious and Wondrous Name, We ask, O Lord God, that you break and dissolve any and all curses, hexes, spells, seals, satanic vows and pacts, spiritual bondings and soul ties with satanic forces, evil wishes, evil desires, hereditary seals, snares, traps, lies, obstacles, deceptions, diversions, spiritual influences, and every dysfunction and disease from any source whatsoever, that have been placed upon this house or those who will reside here.

Father in Heaven, please rebuke these evil spirits and their effects and cast them away from this house and those who will reside here so that they may live in their home unmolested to live according to Your will and to your Greater Glory.

Thank you, Father, for hearing our prayer. We praise Your Holy Name and worship You and Love You. Thank You for the wisdom and light of Your Holy Spirit. Thank You for enabling us through Your Holy Spirit to be aggressive against the works of the enemy. Thank You for Your Hope that takes away discouragement;. Thank You for ongoing victory. "...in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us" (Romans 837).

Father, we now place our enemies into your hands. Look with mercy upon them, and do not hold their sins against them. Anyone who has cursed this house or those who will live here, we now bless. For those who have been afflicted by any spirits in this house, we now pray.

R. Amen.

V. Our Father, Who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy Will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.

R. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

V. Hail Mary, Full of Grace, The Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

R. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now, and at the hour of death. Amen.

V. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, ✠ and to the Holy Spirit.

R. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

All recite the following in unison:

O My Sweet Jesus, forgive us our sins and save us from the fires of Hell. Lead all souls to Heaven, and help especially those who are most in need of Thy Mercy.

All recite the following in unison:

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do Thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host - by the Divine Power of God - cast into hell, Satan and all the evil spirits, who prowl through the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

V. Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, the one who crushes the serpent's head.

℟. Pray for us. Amen and Amen.

Prayers of Exorcism and Blessing:

Holding up a Crucifix at the entrance of the House, the minister says:

Ecce crucis signum, fugiant phantasmata cuncta ("behold the emblem of the Cross; let all specters flee"). †

V. In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

℟. Amen.

V. A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Philippians (2:9-25)

Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

V. The word of the Lord

℟. Thanks be to God.

V. Angels and Saints of Heaven, Join us in our prayer. Heavenly Father, Creator of the Universe, You made man in Thy image and bestowed upon him divine sonship. We beseech Thee now in humble recognition of our need for Thy protection and power. Without you, Father, we are nothing. We cannot even draw our next breath without it being your gift to us; we who have nothing and can boast of nothing except that which you freely give.

Father, we come to you now in need of a cleansing. Trusting in your Son's promise that whatever we ask of Thee in His name you will do, we approach Thy throne, unworthy but trusting in Thy mercy, with the request that you drive away all the evil spirits who may infest this house and home. We ask that you send Thy holy angels to watch over this house and all who may reside here and keep all evil from returning. We ask you this, Father, in the name of Thy Son, Jesus Christ.

R. Amen.

V. Father, as we bless this house and home in the name of the Most Holy Trinity, we ask that you cover these rooms and this property with the Blood of Thy Son; that all offenses committed in this house or on this property be washed away in Thy mercy. Father, we ask that you, with Thy power, destroy all demonic strongholds and ground claimed in this place by Satan and his minions. We take back the ground taken by the Evil One and dedicate it to you Lord and to your Glory and Purpose. We ask that you cleanse this place and make it safe from all evil. We ask you these things, Father, in the name of Thy Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever.

R. Amen.

The following prayer is to be said by the House Owner, or head of the house.

Father, I come before you today as the owner (renter) of this property. I desire to dedicate this property for your Glory. I ask you Lord, in the name of Jesus Christ, Thy Son, that you cleanse all areas of this house and property from any evil in any form. Cast out, O Lord, the evil from amongst us. Make this place clean that all who may reside here may be unmolested by the Evil One and his minions and able to live according to Thy Glory. Finally, Lord, I ask that no evil shall abide here now or in the future.

V. In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

The Exorcism‡

The minister says the following prayer:

- V. God of Heaven, God of earth, God of Angels, God of Archangels, God of Patriarchs, God of Prophets, God of Apostles, God of Martyrs, God of Confessors, God of Virgins, God who has power to give life after death and rest after work, because there is no other God than Thee and there can be no other, for Thou are the Creator of all things, visible and invisible, of Whose reign there shall be no end, we humbly prostrate ourselves before Thy glorious majesty and we supplicate Thee to deliver this house from all the tyranny of the infernal spirits, from their snares, and their furious wickedness.

Deign, O Lord, to protect house and all who will live here and all those in prayer for this household by Thy power and to preserve him/her and us safe and sound. We beseech Thee through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

From the snares of the devil, cleanse this house and deliver all who will live here, O Lord.

“We ask you Father to rebuke the serpent of old and his minions, by Thee who are the Judge of the living and the dead; by Thee who are the Creator of the world who has power to cast into hell, that all evil entities, powers, and sects, bondages and ties be forthwith removed and deported from this house. It is you Father who commands the accursed demon, Thee who commands the winds, and the sea and the storm. It is the Lord God who commanded Satan and the rebellious angels to be hurled down from the height of Heaven into the lower parts of the earth. It is the Holy God that commands the evil one and so should the devil Hearken the word of God, and fear. Command the serpent and his minions, O Lord God, to “Get thee gone, vanquished and cowed,” as we invoke the holy and mighty name of Our Lord Jesus Christ Who will come to judge the living and the dead and all the world by fire.

R. Amen.

The Triple Blessing‡

The Triple Blessing refers to a three-fold blessing given in each room of the house. This triple blessing may accomplished by performing the first blessing successively in each room of the house, then walking through the house a second time for the second blessing and a third time for the third blessing (Method 1). An alternative method (Method 2) is to give all three blessings while in each room thereby walking though the house only once. Either method is acceptable. (see the colored box below for Method 2)

The first blessing is with Holy Water, the Second with a blessed medal of St. Benedict, and a third with blessed Salt.

METHOD 1

The First Blessing: Method 1

Proceed to bless each room in the house, beginning with the attic and moving down through each room to the basement by sprinkling holy water with the sign of the Cross while invoking the following prayer:

V. In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

℞. Amen.

When each room of the house has been blessed with Holy Water, the minister recites this concluding prayer:

V. Do Thou, O Lord, enter graciously into the home that belongs to Thee; construct for Thyself an abiding resting-place in the hearts of Thy faithful servants, and grant that in this house no wickedness of malicious spirits may ever hold sway. Through Jesus Christ Our Lord...

℞. Amen.

The Second Blessing: Method 1

Proceed to bless each room in the house, beginning with the attic and moving down through each room to the basement by taking the St. Benedict medal in hand and making the sign of the Cross while invoking the Trinitarian formula below. Then place the blessed medal of St. Benedict in a location where, if possible the medal may remain undisturbed. It is okay to place the medal inside a wall, on top of a window pane or some other place that will be disturbed.

V. In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

℞. Amen.

When each room of the house has been blessed with Holy Water, the minister recites this concluding prayer:

V. O God, omnipotent and never-ending, who in every place subject to Thee, pervades all and works all Thy Will, comply with our entreaty that Thou be the protector of this dwelling, and that here no antagonism of evil have power to resist Thee, but that, by the co-operation and virtue of the Holy Spirit, with the intercessions of St. Benedict, Thy service may come first of all, and holy freedom remain inviolate. Through Jesus Christ Our Lord...

℞. Amen.

The Third Blessing: Method 1

Proceed to bless each room in the house, beginning with the attic and moving down through each room to the basement by peppering the room with a pinch of blessed salt making the sign of the Cross while invoking the following prayer:

V. In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

℞. Amen.

When each room of the house has been blessed with Holy Water, the minister recites this concluding prayer:

V. O God, who in every place subject to Thee are present as guardian and protector, grant us, we beseech Thee, that the blessing on this house may never slacken, that this salt shall be a sign of Thy preserving hand, and that all we who join in this petition may deserve the shelter which Thou affords. Through Jesus Christ Our Lord...

℞. Amen.

Holding up a Crucifix at the exit of the House, the minister says:

Ecce crucis signum, fugiant phantasmata cuncta ("behold the emblem of the Cross; let all specters flee").

METHOD 2

Proceed to bless each room in the house, beginning with the attic and moving down through each room to the basement. In each room offer the Triple Blessing:

1. Begin with a blessing by sprinkling holy water with the sign of the Cross while invoking the Trinitarian formula below.
2. Then bless the room with by taking the St. Benedict medal in hand and making the sign of the Cross while invoking the Trinitarian formula below. Then place the blessed medal of St. Benedict in a location where, if possible the medal may remain undisturbed. It is okay to place the medal inside a wall, on top of a window pane or some other place that will be disturbed.
3. Then bless the room by peppering the room with a pinch of blessed salt making the sign of the Cross while invoking the Trinitarian prayer below.

V. In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

℞. Amen.

When each room of the house has been blessed with Holy Water, the St. Benedict medal, and blessed salt, the minister recites thee concluding prayers:

V. Do Thou, O Lord, enter graciously into the home that belongs to Thee; construct for Thyself an abiding resting-place in the hearts of Thy faithful servants, and grant that in this house no wickedness of malicious spirits may ever hold sway. Through Jesus Christ Our Lord...

℟. Amen.

V. O God, omnipotent and never-ending, who in every place subject to Thee, pervades all and works all Thy Will, comply with our entreaty that Thou be the protector of this dwelling, and that here no antagonism of evil have power to resist Thee, but that, by the co-operation and virtue of the Holy Spirit, with the intercessions of St. Benedict, Thy service may come first of all, and holy freedom remain inviolate. Through Jesus Christ Our Lord...

℟. Amen.

V. O God, who in every place subject to Thee are present as guardian and protector, grant us, we beseech Thee, that the blessing on this house may never slacken, that this salt shall be a sign of Thy preserving hand, and that all we who join in this petition may deserve the shelter which Thou affords. Through Jesus Christ Our Lord...

℟. Amen.

Holding up a Crucifix at the exit of the House, the minister says:

Ecce crucis signum, fugiant phantasmata cuncta ("behold the emblem of the Cross; let all specters flee").

The Jericho Walk (Joshua 5:13-6:21)

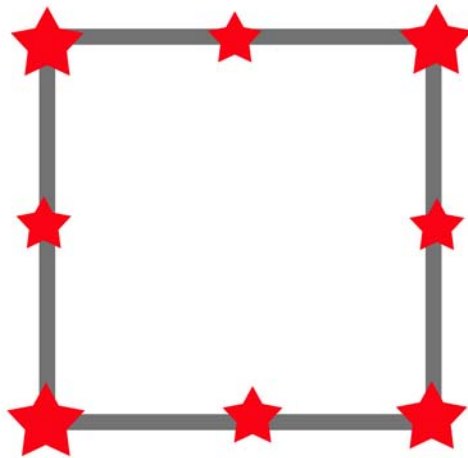
The Minister with the Prayer Team now circles the house blessing out perimeter of the house, windows and doors. If the Blessing is conducted over the phone, those at the house may do this after the closing prayers.

The minister with the Prayer Team now walks the perimeter of the property, if applicable. A St. Benedict Medal is buried on each of the four corners of the property and halfway between each corner. This will involve at least eight medals. If the property is expansive, then walk the inner perimeter near the house what would constitute the immediate front, side, and back lawns adjacent to the house.

While walking the perimeter, the Team is to recite five decades of the Rosary. If the walk is completed before the Rosary is complete, then finish the Rosary at the front entrance to the house before going on to the next section.

At each burial point for the medal, bless the property with the sign of the Cross and then bury the medal an inch or two in the ground sufficient that it will remain there undisturbed.

This diagram illustrates where to bury the St. Benedictine Medal during the Jericho Walk:



Gradual Psalms†

The minister or another member of the Team reads the follows Psalms:

Psalm 124: Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

Psalm 127a: Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives to his beloved sleep.

Psalm 128: Blessed is every one who fears the LORD, who walks in his ways! You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands; you shall be happy, and it shall be well with you.

Concluding Prayers

V. May the almighty and merciful Lord graciously hear us.

℟. Amen.

V. Almighty and everlasting God, you are merciful to all. We humbly beg you to hear our prayers this day and grant us the cleansing of this house from all entities, influences, and presences of evil.

We ask all this through the intercessions of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, Blessed Apostles Peter and Paul, Blessed Michael the Archangel, Blessed Sts. Bruno, Denis, Dymphna, Rita of Cascia, Lucian, Marcian, Margaret of Fontana, Quirinus, Ubaldo, Lucy Bulfalari, Teresa of Avila, Bernadette of Lourdes, and St. Benedict, and all the saints and angels of heaven, and holy in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We also ask through the intercessions of the Saints that those who may have brought evil into this house repent and return to your Friendship by the grace of Thy clemency, and may all who now come into this house receive Thy blessing and protection, and may they glorify Thy name.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord who reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

℟. Amen.

Prayer of the Church: Order of Blessing: †

Introductory Rites

The Prayer Team, with the owners of the house and his family, gather at the entrance of the House, or other convenient place. The minister says:

V. In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

℟. Amen.

A minister who is a priest or deacon greets those present in the following or other suitable words, taken mainly from sacred Scripture.

V. Peace be with this house and with all who live here.

℟. And also with you.

A lay minister greets those present in the following words.

V. 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.

℟. Amen.

In the following or similar words, the minister prepares those present for the blessing.

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, comfort you in your sorrows. Inspired by his teachings and example, seek to make your new home before all else a dwelling place of love, diffusing far and wide the goodness of Christ.

A reader, another person present, or the minister reads a text of sacred Scripture:

Brethren, listen to the words of the holy gospel according to Luke: (19:1-10)

He entered Jericho and was passing through. And there was a man named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector, and rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not, on account of the crowd, because he was small of stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down; for I must stay at your house today." (Picture) So he made haste and came down, and received him joyfully. And when they saw it they all murmured, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have defrauded any one of anything, I restore it fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost."

The following responsorial psalm may be sung or said.

The minister introduces the response:

℟. See how the Lord blesses those who fear him.

Psalm 128

Blessed is every one who fears the LORD,
who walks in his ways!
You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands;
you shall be happy,
and it shall be well with you.

℟. See how the Lord blesses those who fear him.

Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house;
your children will be like olive shoots around your table.

℟. See how the Lord blesses those who fear him.

Lo, thus shall the man be blessed who fears the LORD.
The LORD bless you from Zion!
May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem
all the days of your life!
May you see your children's children!

R. See how the Lord blesses those who fear him.

As circumstances suggest, the minister may give those present a brief explanation of the biblical text, so that they may understand through faith the meaning of the celebration.

Intercessions

The intercessions are then said. The minister introduces them and an assisting minister or one of those present announces the intentions. From the following intentions those best suited to the occasion may be used or adapted, or other intentions that apply to the particular circumstances may be composed.

The minister introduces the response:

R. Lord, hear our prayer

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

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

The minister or one assisting him leads in the following intentions:

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. (For this we pray:)

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

You taught your followers to build their house upon solid rock; grant that those members of this family may hold fast to your teachings and, free of all discord, serve you with their whole heart. (For this we pray:)

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For these and any other intentions...

The family may add any other intentions they wish concerning their house, home, and family.

(For this we pray:)

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Prayer of Blessing

A minister who is a priest or deacon says the prayer of blessing with hands outstretched; a lay minister says the prayer with hands joined.

- V. Lord,
be close to your servants
who move into this home (today) and 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.
- ℞. Amen.

After the prayer of blessing, the minister sprinkles those present and the new home with holy water and, as circumstances suggest, during the sprinkling may say:

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

Concluding Rite

The minister concludes the rite by saying:

- V. 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.
- ℞. Amen.

It is preferable to end the celebration with a suitable song.

Prayers of Closing

Father in heaven, through the intercessions of our Holy Father, John Paul II, of happy memory, grant us these petitions, according to your will.

℞. Amen.

Holding up a Crucifix at the exit of the House, the minister says:

Ecce crucis signum, fugiant phantasmata cuncta ("behold the emblem of the Cross; let all specters flee").

V. In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

℞. Amen.



As for me and my house, we shall serve the Lord