

CONTENTS

| | |
|---|----|
| Decree of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops | 5 |
| Decree of the Congregation for Divine Worship | 6 |
| Foreword | 15 |
| Decree of the Congregation for Divine Worship | 17 |
| General Introduction | 19 |

PART I: BLESSINGS DIRECTLY PERTAINING TO PERSONS

Chapter 1

| | |
|--|-----|
| Orders for the Blessing of Families and Members of Families | 35 |
| I. Order for the Blessing of a Family | 36 |
| Order of Blessing | 36 |
| II. Order for the Annual Blessing of Families in Their Own Homes | 43 |
| III. Orders for the Blessing of a Married Couple .. | 51 |
| A. Order of Blessing outside Mass | 51 |
| B. Shorter Rite | 60 |
| IV. Orders for the Blessing of Children | 63 |
| A. Order for the Blessing of Baptized Children | 63 |
| B. Order for the Blessing of a Child not yet Baptized | 70 |
| C. Shorter Rite | 75 |
| V. Order for the Blessing of Sons and Daughters .. | 78 |
| VI. Order for the Blessing of an Engaged Couple .. | 86 |
| VII. Order for the Blessing of Parents before Childbirth | 93 |
| A. Order of Blessing | 93 |
| B. Shorter Rite | 98 |
| VIII. Orders for the Blessing of a Mother before Childbirth and after Childbirth | 101 |
| A. Order for the Blessing of a Mother before Childbirth | 101 |

**PART V: BLESSINGS FOR VARIOUS NEEDS
AND OCCASIONS**

| | |
|--|-----|
| Introduction | 507 |
| Chapter 38 | |
| Order for the Blessing of a Parish Council | 509 |
| Order of Blessing within a Celebration of the Word of God | 509 |
| Chapter 39 | |
| Order for the Blessing of Officers of Parish Societies | 515 |
| Chapter 40 | |
| Prayer on the Occasion of the Inauguration of a Public Official | 521 |
| Chapter 41 | |
| Order for a Blessing in Thanksgiving | 525 |
| Chapter 42 | |
| Order for a Blessing To Be Used in Various Circumstances | 533 |
| APPENDIX | |
| Solemn Blessings and Prayers over the People | 547 |
| Solemn Blessings | 547 |
| Prayers over the People | 561 |
| INDICES | |
| Alphabetical Index of Blessings | 569 |
| Index of Readings | 574 |
| Index of Psalms and Canticles | 576 |

A

(A prayer used before every session of the Second Vatican Council)

We stand before you, Holy Spirit,
conscious of our sinfulness,
but aware that we gather in your name.

Come to us, remain with us,
and enlighten our hearts.

Give us light and strength
to know your will,
to make it our own,
and to live it in our lives.

Guide us by your wisdom,
support us by your power,
for you are God,
sharing the glory of Father and Son.

You desire justice for all:
enable us to uphold the rights of others;
do not allow us to be misled by ignorance
or corrupted by fear or favor.

Unite us to yourself in the bond of love
and keep us faithful to all that is true.

As we gather in your name
may we temper justice with love,
so that all our decisions
may be pleasing to you,
and earn the reward
promised to good and faithful servants.

You live and reign with the Father and the Son,
one God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

B

Lord,
may everything we do
begin with your inspiration
and continue with your help,
so that all our prayers and works
may begin in you
and by you be happily ended.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

C

V. Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.

R. And kindle in them the fire of your love.

V. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.

R. And you will renew the face of the earth.

Let us pray.

After a brief pause for silent prayer, the leader continues:

Lord,
by the light of the Holy Spirit
you have taught the hearts of your faithful.
In the same Spirit
help us to relish what is right
and always rejoice in your consolation.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.