

COMMISSIONING MINISTERS OF THE WORD

Commissioning should take place during the celebration of Sunday Mass where Ministers will exercise their function.

The Homily should explain the place of the Word of God in the liturgy and the importance of proclaiming it well. After the Homily, those to be commissioned as parish Readers are presented to the people in these or similar words:-

Option A

Dear Friends in Christ,
Our brothers and sisters N and N are to be entrusted with the important duty of proclaiming God's Word in the Assembly. Through them, God will speak to his people of the salvation and redemption won for them by the Lord Jesus, so that, nourished by this word, the people will grow in the love and the knowledge of God.

(The celebrant pauses and then addresses the candidates)

You have been called to proclaim the word of God in the assembled community of God's people and in so doing you are sharing in the Church's mission to preach the Good News to all peoples. May God's word be living and active in your lives, that you may worship the living God in spirit and in truth.

In proclaiming God's word to others, accept it yourself in obedience to the Holy Spirit. Meditate on it constantly, so that each day you will have a deeper love for the Scriptures and in all you say and do, show forth to the world our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

After the address, the candidates stand before the celebrant who asks them:

Are you resolved to become a Minister of the Word and to proclaim God's word to the people assembled in this Church? **(I am)**

Are you willing to prepare each proclaiming of God's word by study and prayer? (**I am**)

The celebrant then hands a Bible to a representative of the (or to all the readers) and prays:

Let us pray to God our loving Father and ask him to bless our brothers and sisters chosen to proclaim His Word:

God our Father, you have given our brothers and sisters faith in you and in your living word. We ask you to help them grow in that faith as they mediate on your word, so that they may worthily proclaim the word to the assembly and by the manner of their lives.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Option B

Fr. N., having completed the prescribed training and instruction, I present to you the following candidates, to be appointed as Ministers of the Word in this Parish of.....

As their names are called, the Readers stand and if appropriate come forward.

The Priests says:-

By prayer, study and practice, the faithful here presented have prepared and shown themselves able to proclaim the Word of God in a worthy manner in this Church/in their Parish Churches.

The Priest asks the candidates:-

My dear friends, when requested
Are you willing to proclaim the Word of God during
Mass and other Services?

The Candidates answer all together:-

I am.

The Priest addresses them:-

During the Mass the reading of the Gospel is so important a proclamation that it is reserved to the Deacon or Priest. But all Scripture is the Word of God to be received with joy by the people. To read Scripture to the people is a responsible and important task for it is the Word of God that is being announced to the people who must hear this Word clearly so that they may grow in the knowledge and love of God and His Word.

Let us pray (*pause*)

God our Father, give physical health and strength to these members of our community that they may clearly announce Word. Strengthened and inspired by the power of the Holy Spirit, make them devout in their use of the Bible that the Word of God may be respected and cherished by all.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Priest may then hand a book of the Scriptures to the Readers and if he does so, he says to them:-

Make the Scriptures your constant study so that you may be well prepared to proclaim them when asked to do so.

The priest concludes the commissioning with the following blessing.

Merciful Father,

Bless our brothers and sisters.

May they meditate on it constantly, so that each day they will have a deeper love for the Scriptures and in all they say and do, show forth to the world our Saviour, Jesus Christ.