



OXROSE ACADEMY: BLESSING OF PARENTS, TEACHERS, AND STUDENTS

INTRODUCTION

Priest: *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.*

Priest: *May the God of wisdom, knowledge, and grace be with you always.*

All reply: *And with your spirit.*

Priest: *Let us praise the God of wisdom, knowledge, and grace. Blessed be God for ever.*

All reply: *Blessed be God for ever.*

Priest: *We gather here today to ask God's blessing on our teachers and students. Studies are challenging, yet the reward is great. They lead to a knowledge of the world and of God. May God enlighten our hearts and minds as we listen now to the Word of God.*

READING

A reading from the book of Sirach

If you wish, you can be taught; if you apply yourself, you will be shrewd. If you are willing to listen, you will learn; if you give heed, you will be wise. Frequent the company of the elders; whoever is wise, stay close to him. Be eager to hear every godly discourse; let no wise saying escape you. If you see a man of prudence, seek him out; let your feet wear away his doorstep! Reflect on the precepts of the LORD, let his commandments be your constant meditation; Then he will enlighten your mind, and the wisdom you desire he will grant. ~ Sirach 6:32-37

INTERCESSIONS

Priest: *For those who seek knowledge of the things of this world, that they may always pursue God's wisdom, let us pray to the Lord.*

All reply: *Fill us with your wisdom, Lord.*

Priest: *God is the source of all wisdom and knowledge. Let us ask him to bless those who seek to learn and their teachers.*

All reply: *Fill us with your wisdom, Lord.*

Priest: *For students that the Spirit of God may grant them the gifts of wisdom and understanding, let us pray to the Lord.*

All reply: *Fill us with your wisdom, Lord.*

Priest: *For teachers, that they may share their knowledge with gentleness, patience, and concern for their students, let us pray to the Lord.*

All reply: *Fill us with your wisdom, Lord.*

Priest: *For parents, the first teachers of their children, that their faith and love may be an example to us always, let us pray to the Lord.*

All reply: *Fill us with your wisdom, Lord.*

Priest: *Taught by our Savior's command and formed by the word of God, we pray:*

All: *Our Father . . .*

PRAYER OF BLESSING

Priest: *Lord God, your Spirit of Wisdom fills the earth and teaches us your ways.*

Look upon these students. Let them enjoy their learning and take delight in new discoveries. Help them to persevere in their studies and give them the desire to learn all things well.

Look upon these parents and teachers. Let them strive to share their knowledge with gentle patience; and endeavor always to bring the truth to eager minds.

Grant that students, parents, and teachers alike may follow Jesus Christ, the way, the truth, and the life. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All reply: *Amen*

Priest: *And may almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.*

All reply: *Amen*

Priest: *Our Lady of the Rosary, Saint Thomas Aquinas, and Saint Rose Venerini*

All reply: *Pray for us.*

Note: The precise efficacy of invocative blessings (as opposed to constitutive ones) conducted virtually is debated. Since they have the form of a prayer and do not include a physical, sacramental component it is argued that they are not limited by this setting. Others point out that the presence of persons to each other constitutes an essential part of all liturgical acts and blessings and that, as such, any form of perceived blessing, is not anything more than individual prayer.

Insofar as we are limited to a virtual gathering by the very nature of our institution, we hold this event to be at least an appropriate action, one that is of value to us as a community, and one that is pleasing to God. Nonetheless, families are strongly encouraged to request an in person blessing at their local parishes here at the beginning of the school year.

The form of this evening's proceedings is a slightly modified version of the "Order of blessing within a celebration of the Word of God" for the blessing for students and teachers from the Book of Blessings, published by the Joint Commission of the Catholic Bishops Conference, 1989.