

ORDER OF BLESSING OF YOUTH TRAVELING TO “ON-FIRE” GATHERING

INTRODUCTORY RITES

When the community has gathered, the minister says:

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.

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

May the Lord, source of fire and light, be with you all.

All make the following or some other suitable reply.

And also with you.

A lay minister greets those present in the following words.

**May the Lord turn his face toward us
and guide our feet into the way of peace, now and for ever.**

R/. Amen.

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

Let us entrust these young people to the hands of the Lord.

Let us pray that he will give them and all the youth of northern California a safe journey,

and that as they travel they will praise him in all his creatures;

that they will experience God's own goodness in the hospitality they receive, and bring the Good News of salvation to all those they meet;

that they will be courteous toward all;

that they will greet the poor and afflicted with kindness and know how to comfort and help them.

READING OF THE WORD OF GOD

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

Brothers and sisters, listen to the words of the book of Genesis:

Jacob departed from Beer-sheba and proceeded toward Haran. When he came upon a certain shrine, as the sun had already set, he stopped there for the night. Taking one of the stones at the shrine, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep at that spot. Then he had a dream: a stairway rested on the ground, with its top reaching to the heavens; and God's messengers were going up and down on it. And there was the LORD standing beside him and saying: "I, the LORD, am the God of your forefather Abraham and the God of Isaac; the land on which you are lying I will give to you and your descendants. These shall be as plentiful as the dust of the earth, and through them you shall spread out east and west, north and south. In you and your descendants all the nations of the earth shall find blessing. Know that I am with you; I will protect you wherever you go, and bring you back to this land. I will never leave you until I have done what I promised you." When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he exclaimed, "Truly, the LORD is in this spot, although I did not know it!"

The word of the Lord.

R/. Thanks be to God.

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.

A minister who is not going to accompany the travelers says the following prayer.

**All-powerful and merciful God,
you gave Jacob a vision of your promises of prosperity and protection.
Help these our brothers and sisters and give them a safe journey.
Under your protection let them glimpse your promise for them,
help them experience your love in their brothers and sisters,
and return filled with the fire of your presence.**

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R/. Amen.

A minister who is to accompany the travelers says the following prayer.

**All-powerful and ever-living God,
when you showed Jacob your promises in a dream
as he journeyed with you by his side.
Protect us, who also are your servants:
walk by our side to help us;
be our companion and our strength on the road
and our refuge in every adversity.
Lead us, O Lord, and all the young people of this region,
so that we will gather as a community of believers
with faith and enthusiasm,
and happily return to our homes
with hearts on fire for you.**

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R/. Amen.

CONCLUDING RITE

A minister who is a priest or deacon concludes the rite by saying:

**May the Lord remain constantly at your (our) side
and in his mercy guide your (our) journey
in ways that are pleasing to him.**

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R/. Amen.

Then he blesses all present.

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

R/. Amen.

A lay minister invokes God's blessing on the travelers and all present by signing himself or herself with the sign of the cross and saying:

**May almighty God bless us
and hear our prayers for a safe journey.**

R/. Amen.

Go in peace.