

## The Commissioning of the Pastoral Care Team

*After the intercessions, the members of the team gather in front of the altar*

*Fr John says:*

It is our great joy to commission this team of pastoral visitors and to ask the Lord's blessing upon them. We give thanks to God that each one has responded to God's call to service among the people of this parish. In this commissioning you are, as members of this parish, committing yourselves to this team and to supporting them in their ministries among you.

*Fr John addresses the team:*

The Lord has been calling you to a pastoral ministry within the life of this parish, working with me as your Rector. You are called to share in the joys and sorrows of those you visit and to bring the love of the Lord Jesus in to the lives of those you meet.

Will you care for those entrusted to you with diligence and faith and will you serve the people of this place with the love, humility and passion of Jesus Christ, your Lord?

***With the Lord's help, we will.***

Will you minister, as part of Christ's body, in the power of the Spirit and to the glory of God the Father?

***With the Lord's help, we will.***

Will you sustain this ministry with personal and corporate prayer and study of God's Word?

***With the Lord's help, we will.***

*He addresses the congregation*

Will you, by your prayers, your words and in practical ways support the members of this team in their ministry among you?

***With the Lord's help, we will.***

*Fr John lays his hands on each member of the team, and prays for them.*

*He then prays for the team as a whole:*

Heavenly Father,  
we praise you for providing workers  
as gifts to your Church,  
to build up your people in faith and love.  
We thank you today for the members of this team  
as they begin their new ministry.  
We pray that you will equip them  
with every spiritual gift they will need  
and that they may serve you with humility and joy.  
We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen

*The team pray together:*

Lord Jesus,  
I give you my hands to do your work.  
I give you my feet to go your way.  
I give you my eyes to see as you do.  
I give you my tongue to speak your words.  
I give you my mind that you may think in me.  
I give you my spirit that you may pray in me.  
Above all, I give you my heart.  
I give you my whole self that you may grow in me,  
so that it is you, Lord Jesus,  
who live and work and pray in me. **Amen.**

*The Liturgy of the Sacrament*

Peace to you from God our heavenly Father.  
Peace from his Son Jesus Christ who is our peace.  
Peace from the Holy Spirit, the life-giver.  
The peace of the triune God be always with you.  
The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**  
Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*All exchange a sign of peace.*