

Capuchin Youth and Family Ministries 2004 Lay Assistant Commissioning Mass

Welcome:

Gathering Song: We Are Called

Liturgical Procession is led by the Six Lay Assistants carrying unlit candles. Former Lay Assistant(s) holding the Paschal Candle meet them in the aisle. They light their candles from the Paschal Candle and continue, placing their candles on the altar and by the Lectern.

Rite of Sprinkling

Liturgy of the Word:

First - **Lay Assistants**

Response: Psalm 34 Taste and See (Sung)

Second - **Lay Assistants**

Alleluia

Gospel Proclamation:

Homily: Fr. Fred

Commissioning Service:

[After the Gospel has been proclaimed the Commissioning Ritual takes place as Follows.]

Calling of the Lay Assistants (Tom):

I invite those to be commissioned as Lay Assistants to please stand and come to the front of the assembly: Marie Jochum, Melissa Lees, Karla Pruemer, Ed Rogers, Liz Sjoberg. *(The Lay Assistants leave their seats and Form a semi-circle around the back of the baptismal Font.)*

Presider's Prayer (Fred):

Lord God, source of all wisdom and knowledge, you sent your Son, Jesus Christ, to live among us and to proclaim his message of faith, hope and love to all the nations. As we gather to commission our brothers and sisters, who have offered themselves as Youth Ministers for the young Church and Lay Assistants in the Capuchin Franciscan Volunteer Corps, we pray that you bless them in your goodness. Renew in them the grace of baptism and strengthen them with your gifts that they may teach by word and example, the truth which comes from you. We ask this through Christ our Lord. AMEN.

Explanation of the Tau Crosses (Br. Carlos):

The Tau sign (Ezekiel 9:4-6) is the badge of the remnant people who remained faithful to God, despite great difficulty, persecution, and even death. They were God's poor. It is the last letter of the Hebrew alphabet which then represents the end of time when Christ will welcome all to the Kingdom.

Pope Innocent III (Lateran Council 1215) spoke of the Tau as the true cross of Jesus' crucifixion and thus it is a reminder of conversion and redemption. Francis of Assisi, present for this Council, was impressed by this reference to the Tau. He regarded it as the symbol, the summary and the program of his life and mission.

Let us now pray for God's blessings on these Tau Crosses and on those who will wear them.

Blessing of the Tau Crosses and the Lay Assistants (Fred):

Heavenly Father, together with Jesus, Your Son, and the Holy Spirit, we ask you to bless + these Tau Crosses. Bless the lay Assistants who will wear them as they follow the example of Francis of Assisi who sought to rebuild your Church by his contemplation of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, Your Son. Like those of Francis, may the words, thoughts and actions of our brothers and sisters who wear these crosses bring glory and honor to your name. We ask this through the intercession of Saints Francis and Claire of Assisi and in the name of Jesus, the Lord. AMEN.

[After the blessing, each is called to the altar to will receive the Tau cross, one by one. Tom - Marie, Carlos - Melissa, Fred - Karla, Tom - Ed, Carlos - Liz. As the Tau is laced over the head of each Lay Assistant a prayer of blessing is said. After receiving the Tau, the lay assistant returns to the circle.

Renewal of Baptismal Promises (Fred):

All present renew their baptismal promises with the Lay Assistants in the place of prominence around the Baptismal Font.

Lay Assistants Prayer of Commitment: (Turn and Face the congregation)

The Gospel compels each of us to reach out in the name of Jesus Christ and to be a living sign of hope in the reign of God. I answer the call of discipleship by committing one year as a Lay Assistant at Capuchin Franciscan Youth and Family Ministries in the Province of St. Mary. I will offer my skills, gifts and talents to the service of youth and their families. I pray for the grace to live and preach the Gospel daily through my words and actions, and I pray also for the courage to be a Christian role model for all young people, even when it is most difficult for me personally.

Teen Community's Response:

In the name of the Christian community and Capuchin Youth and Family Ministries, we commission you as Lay Assistants for this coming year. We look to you to share the Gospel with us through your words and actions and we promise you our prayers and support.

Adult Community's Response:

Nourished by the Word of God and the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, and strengthened by our gathering as a faith community in this celebration, we send you forth as disciples to follow Jesus and to imitate his example of self-sacrificing, and loving service; as prophets to proclaim the Good News of God's Kingdom; as leaders to bear witness to our Catholic faith; and as Youth Ministers to bring our children to the Lord Jesus.

Acceptance of Lay Assistants' Commitment: Tom

Marie, Melissa, Karla, Ed, and Liz, the CYFM community accepts the gift of your commitment to this year of service among us. We are grateful to God for the gifts he has given you, your talents, your commitment to Gospel service, your faith. We are grateful to you for the generosity you show, and your example of a life of discipleship, lived in service to others. Be assured of the support of the CYFM staff and community as we all journey together, nurtured by the Bread of Life we will now receive, as we work for the coming of kingdom by building the today's Catholic young leaders and families.

I invite the community to affirm this generous commitment of yours with their applause.

Intercessions: Read by Two Lay Assistants

Fr. Fred: As we gather today for this commissioning service, we are mindful of your promise to be with us at all times and to hear us when we pray. Therefore, we make known our needs and petitions:

Our response is: *"Lord we ask you, hear our prayer.*

For the Church throughout the world, that many more young people will hear the call of the Lord and accept his invitation to discipleship, we pray...

For each of us, the newly commissioned Lay Assistants: Myself, Marie, Melissa, Karla, Ed, and Liz, that we may experience the blessings of friendship and peace as we offer this year of service to the CYFM family, we pray...

For my family and the families of the our Lay Assistants who have nurtured the faith and commitment to Gospel service that brings us to this service of the CYFM community, that God will bless them for their love and sacrifice, we pray to the Lord.

For all young people who serve the Church and share the Gospel with others by their good example, their zeal, their enthusiasm and their personal witness, we pray...

For all those people who support this ministry by their prayers, their time and financial donations, that God may bless them abundantly for their generosity, we pray...

For all who suffer from addictions, for all victims of abuse, for all those whose faith is weak, and for all who reach out in service to those in need, we pray...

For an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life, particularly to our Capuchin Franciscan community, we pray...

That God will raise up to the new life of His Son's resurrection the souls of our deceased relatives and friends, especially members of our CYFM family, we pray...

Let us pause in silence to present our own personal needs to the Lord... for these, we pray...

Liturgy of the Eucharist as usual

Distribution of the Eucharist – Two Lay Assistants

Communion Song: I Am The Bread Of Life

Words after Communion: Tom

Final Blessing: (Fred)

Closing Song: Hosanna