

UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

DECREE OF PUBLICATION

DECREE

BENDICIÓN AL CUMPLIR QUINCE AÑOS

In accord with the norms established by decree of the Sacred Congregation of Rites in *Cum nostra ætate* (January 27, 1966) and the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments in *Liturgiam authenticam* (March 28, 2001), the *Bendición al cumplir quince años / Order for the Blessing on the Fifteenth Birthday* is declared to be a part of both the *Bendiciónal* and the *Book of Blessings* for use in the dioceses of the United States of America, and is published by authority of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The *Bendición al cumplir quince años / Order for the Blessing on the Fifteenth Birthday* was canonically approved for use by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops on November 15, 2004, and were subsequently confirmed by the Apostolic See by decree of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments on July 10, 2007 (Prot. No. 1709/05/L).

From this date, the *Bendición al cumplir quince años / Order for the Blessing on the Fifteenth Birthday* may be used in the liturgy.

Given at the General Secretariat of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, D.C. on July 26, 2007, the feast of Saints Joachim and Ann, parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Most Reverend William S. Skylstad
Bishop of Spokane
President, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Reverend Monsignor David Malloy
General Secretary



Office of the Diaconate

Order for the Blessing on the Fifteenth Birthday

1. Among several Spanish-speaking countries and among many Hispanics in the United States there is the custom of celebrating the passage from childhood to adolescence with a ritual that expresses thanksgiving to God for the gift of life and that asks for a blessing from God for the years ahead. This may be done within Mass by use of the rites of blessing provided in nos. 3–16 or by a blessing outside Mass, celebrated according to the rites given in nos. 17–32.
2. Since this rite may be used for more than one person, the changes in parentheses indicate the plural forms.

A. Order for Blessing on the Fifteenth Birthday within Mass

3. Depending on the provisions of the rubrics in the Liturgy of the Word, the readings of the day from the *Lectionary for Mass*, or from Masses for Various Needs and Occasions, “In Thanksgiving,” may be used.
4. The homily follows the Gospel reading. In it, the priest gives an explanation of the grace and mystery of life based on the sacred texts.
5. The general intercessions follow, either in the form usual at Mass or in the form given in nos. 33–34.
6. In the Liturgy of the Eucharist the *Order of Mass* is observed.
7. Before the final blessing the priest invites the *quinceañera* (*quinceañeras*) to make an act of thanksgiving and of a personal commitment to lead a Christian life.
8. The *quinceañera* (*quinceañeras*) may do so in these or similar words:

Heavenly Father,
I thank you for the gift of life
for creating me in your image and likeness
and for calling me to be your daughter through baptism.
Thank you for sending your Son Jesus to save me
and your Holy Spirit to sanctify me.
To that which in your goodness and love
you will for me, I say “yes,”

With your grace I commit myself
to serve my brothers and sisters all my life.

Mary, Mother of Jesus and our Mother,
I dedicate myself to you.
Since you are my model of faith,
help me to continue learning from you what I need
to be a Christian woman.
Help me to hear the Word of God as you did,
holding it in my heart and loving others,
so that, as I walk with Jesus in this life,
I may worship Him with you in all eternity.
Amen.

9. The priest responds:

N. (N. and N.), may God who has begun this good work in you bring it to completion.

- 10.** According to circumstances, the priest, in silence, sprinkles the *quinceañera* with holy water.
- 11.** At this time, the *quinceañera* (*quinceañeras*) may take a flower or a bouquet of flowers to the image of the Blessed Mother.
- 12.** If convenient, the priest invites the baptismal godparents and other couples acting as sponsors to bring the religious articles to be given to the *quinceañera* (*quinceañeras*) such as a medal, a Bible, a rosary, and other religious objects which have been previously blessed.
- 13.** Then the baptismal godparents and other couples acting as sponsors give the blessed objects to the *quinceañera* (*quinceañeras*).
- 14.** At the end of Mass the priest blesses the *quinceañera* (*quinceañeras*), using these or similar words:

Loving God,
you created all the people of the world
and you know each of us by name.
We thank you for **N.** (these *quinceañeras*),
who today celebrates her (their) fifteenth birthday.
Bless her (them) with your love and friendship
that she (they) may grow in wisdom, knowledge, and grace.
May she (they) love her (their) family always
and be faithful to her (their) friends.
Grant this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

- 15.** Then the priest blesses all present in the usual way.
- 16.** After the blessing, all may sing a hymn which suitably expresses thanksgiving and joy or they may sing the song of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the *Magnificat*.

B. Order for Blessing on the Fifteenth Birthday Outside Mass

- 17.** The present rite may be used by a priest or deacon.
- 18.** When the community has gathered, a suitable song may be sung. Then the one presiding 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.**

- 19.** A priest or deacon greets those present in the following or other suitable words, taken mainly from sacred Scripture.

**The grace and peace of God our Father,
who granted us the gift of life
and made us his children through Baptism,
be with you all.**

All: And also with you.

- 20.** The one who presides prepares all present to listen the Word of God:

We have come together to celebrate the fifteenth birthday of **N. (these *quinceañeras*). As we join her (them) in her (their) joy, we join her (them) also in her (their) gratitude. Let us listen to the Word of God:**

READING OF THE WORD OF GOD

- 21.** Then the *quinceañera* (if well prepared, or another person) proclaims the following or another text from Sacred Scripture:

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah: 1:4–10

The word of the Lord came to me thus: Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I dedicated you, a prophet to the nations I appointed you. “Ah, Lord God!” I said, “I know not how to speak; I am too young.” But the Lord answered me, Say not, “I am too young.” To whomever I send you, you shall go, whatever I command you, you shall speak. Have no fear before them, because I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord. Then the Lord extended his hand and touched my mouth, saying, See, I place my words in your mouth! This day I set you over nations and over kingdoms, To root up and to tear down, to destroy and to demolish, to build and to plant.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

- 22.** The one who presides invites the *quinceañera* (*quinceañeras*) to make an act of thanksgiving and of personal commitment to lead a Christian life.

23. The *quinceañera* (*quinceañeras*) may do so using these or similar words:

Heavenly Father,
I thank you for the gift of life
for creating me in your image and likeness
and for calling me to be your daughter through baptism.
Thank you for sending your Son Jesus to save me
and your Holy Spirit to sanctify me.
To that which in your goodness and love
you will for me, I say “yes,”

With your grace I commit myself
to serve my brothers and sisters all my life.

Mary, Mother of Jesus and our Mother, I dedicate myself to you.
Since you are my model of faith,
help me to continue learning from you what I need
to be a Christian woman.
Help me to hear the Word of God as you did,
holding it in my heart and loving others,
so that, as I walk with Jesus in this life,
I may worship Him with you in all eternity.
Amen.

24. The one who presides responds:

N. (N. and N.), may God who has begun this good work in you
bring it to completion.

25. According to circumstances, the one who presides in silence sprinkles the *quinceañera*
with holy water.

26. At this time, the *quinceañera* (*quinceañeras*) may take a flower or a bouquet of
flowers to the image of the Blessed Mother.

27. If convenient, the one who presides invites the baptismal godparents and other
couples acting as sponsors to bring the religious articles to be given to the
quinceañera (*quinceañeras*) such as a medal, a Bible, a rosary and other religious
objects which have been previously blessed. (This is optional).

28. Then the baptismal godparents and other couples acting as sponsors give the objects
to the *quinceañera* (*quinceañeras*).

29. The one who presides says these or similar words:

Loving God,
you created all the people of the world
and you know each of us by name.
We thank you for **N.**, (these *quinceañeras*),
who today celebrate(s) her (their) fifteenth birthday.
Bless her (them) with your love and friendship
that she (they) may grow in wisdom, knowledge, and grace.

**May she (they) love her (their) family always
and be faithful to her friends.
Grant this through Christ our Lord.**

All: Amen.

- 30.** The one who presides may invite all present to exchange the sign of peace using these or similar words:

**In the love of Christ,
let us conclude our celebration,
by offering one another a sign of peace.**

- 31.** All make an appropriate sign of peace, according to local custom.
- 32.** After the blessing all may sing a hymn which suitably expresses thanksgiving and joy or they may sing the song of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the *Magnificat*.

APPENDIX

33. General Intercessions

Priest: We commend our cares and concerns to God, through the person of Christ, saying: Lord, hear our prayer.

Deacon/Lector: For our Holy Father, **N.**, our (arch)bishop **N.**, our pastor **N.**, and all those who have dedicated their life to the service of God's people, that they may continue to follow faithfully their vocation; We pray to the Lord:

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For our civic rulers that they may perform their duties with justice and compassion for the good of all; We pray to the Lord:

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For **N.** (these *quinceañeras*), who is (are) celebrating her (their) birthday today, that she (they) may continue with happiness and generosity in the way of the Lord; We pray to the Lord:

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For the parents, grandparents and godparents of **N.** (these *quinceañeras*), that they may continue to enjoy the fruit of their love in their children; We pray to the Lord:

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For the youth, particularly the "faith companions" of **N.** (these *quinceañeras*), that they may have the necessary strength to live according to their Christian principles; We pray to the Lord:

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For the sick and the poor in our community, that they may experience God's love for them as those around them respond to their needs; We pray to the Lord:

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For all our faithful departed, that they may enjoy the vision of God in heaven; We pray to the Lord:

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For all our personal intentions that are deep in our hearts and for all those for whom we should pray, that they may receive the graces they need; We pray to the Lord:

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

34. The priest immediately adds the following or some other suitable prayer:

Loving Creator, we come before you with faith and love to praise your goodness and to acknowledge our need. We ask you to hear the prayers we make in the name of Jesus the Lord.

All: Amen.