

Good News

WordBytes



A new evangelization for a new millennium

The Catholic Evangelizer's Commissioning Rite

Good News Ministries

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Scripture says in Matt. 28:18-20: Jesus came to them and said, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. Be assured, I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Do you believe that Jesus is speaking to you, asking you to go forth and make disciples wherever you He sends you?

Just before He ascended to heaven, Jesus said to the disciples: "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

Is it your desire today to receive this power?

Dear Father, in the name of my Lord Jesus Christ, I ask you to stir up within me the fullness of Your Holy Spirit. Help me to grow in my relationship with the Third Person of Your Holy Trinity and to live in His power and use His gifts.

Lord Jesus, You promised, "The Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you" (John 14:26). Help me to remember that I don't know everything, and that this is okay, because the Holy Spirit understands it all. Fill me with the Holy Spirit and His understanding of everything that is happening in my life.

O Holy Spirit, Jesus asked the Father to give me the Spirit of Truth (John 14:17). Help me to recognize You in the scriptures. Open my mind to understand Your truths, and open my heart to accept Your truths in faith even before I gain right understanding.

O Holy Spirit, Jesus said, "The one who receives the seed that falls on good soil hears the word and understands it. He produces an abundant crop" (Matt. 13:23). Be the gardener of my life. Nourish the seeds

of heaven that You have already placed within me and make it grow so that Your love, Your ways, and Your kingdom will always grow within me and produce much good fruit for others.

O Holy Spirit, Jesus said, "Do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you what you should say" (John 12:11-12). Help me to trust in You always. Help me to remember that with You, nothing is impossible, and that You work everything according to what is good and right and timely, even if it doesn't seem so to me.

O Holy Spirit, Jesus said, "Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and everything else you need will be given to you as well" (Matt. 6:33). Help me to let go of all my earthly attachments. First help me to recognize what I am attached to that is not of You, and then hold my hand as I walk away from the things of the world. Give me the determination and the strength to let go so that I have no other gods before me. I want only You.

O Holy Spirit, You are the Comforter. Help me to let go of the losses in my life. Heal my heart. And help me to face my sinfulness and to feel genuine sorrow for the damage ~ both intentional and unintentional ~ that I have inflicted on others and in so doing have inflicted on Jesus. Comfort me as I mourn my need for forgiveness, and give me Your spirit of rejoicing over this new growth in me.

O Holy Spirit, Jesus freely chose to suffer and die for me because of His tremendous love for me. I have pains in my life ~ hurts, wounds, sufferings, trials, difficulties ~ and I want to run from them. Strengthen me to follow in Jesus' footsteps so that I can walk my road to Calvary without fearing evil, and lead me into my new life of victory and resurrection.

O Holy Spirit, Jesus said that He would not leave us orphans, but would send You to us (John 14:18). How often I have wept or complained because it seemed like You were not with me in my sorrows and sufferings! Help me to recognize Your presence in ALL situations. Help me to turn to You and find You, for You never abandon me. You care even more about me and my problems than I do. You are working a plan for my benefit, to make good come from everything that happens to me. Help me to discover Your presence in every moment of my life.

O Holy Spirit, by the cross of Jesus we are healed! By His resurrection we live in the new life of total, unconditional love. Help me to share that healing love with all those around me. Jesus commanded, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation." Help me to declare with power the Good News of Jesus Christ. Send me to where You can use my gifts and talents to make a difference.

O Holy Spirit, You gave Yourself to the Virgin Mary and she said "yes" to becoming the mother of the Messiah. Help me to say "yes!" to whatever it is You are calling me to do. I want to serve the Father and make Jesus' love more evident in the world around me.

O Holy Spirit, I have my own expectations about what I should and should not do. I now surrender to You my ideas, my limitations, my preferences, and my goals. Fill me, Holy Spirit, with all Your supernatural gifts! Empower me to accept and grow in the supernatural life as much as the early disciples did. I want to be useful to You. I want to go where You lead me. Holy Spirit, send me forth gifted and empowered to make a difference spreading the Good News of God's forgiving love.

Come, Holy Spirit; renew me. In Jesus' name, Amen!

Jesus told His disciples to love one another the way He has loved us. Will you evangelize by the way you give God's love to one another, caring for others, serving others, and listening to the needs of others? Is it your desire to be Christ's witness wherever you go?

"There is no doubt that the effort to proclaim the Gospel to the people of today, who are buoyed up by hope but at the same time often oppressed by fear and distress, is a service rendered to the Christian community and also to the whole of humanity. ...

"For this reason the duty of confirming the brethren ... seems to us all the more noble and necessary when it is a matter of encouraging our brethren in their mission as evangelizers, in order that, in this time of uncertainty and confusion, they may accomplish this task with ever increasing love, zeal and joy." (*Evangelii Nuntiandi*)

Do you accept the calling to accomplish your task of evangelization with ever increasing love, zeal and joy?

"I wish to invite the Church to renew her missionary commitment... For missionary activity renews the Church, revitalizes faith and Christian identity, and offers fresh enthusiasm and new incentive. Faith is

strengthened when it is given to others! It is in commitment to the Church's universal mission that the new evangelization of Christian peoples will find inspiration and support." (*Pope John Paul II in "Redemptoris Missio"*)

Do you accept your responsibilities in the Church's universal mission, and do you agree to accomplish this task in collaboration with the Church community, working toward unity with a spirit of cooperation, obedience to authority, and Christ-like, servant-style leadership with those under your authority?

Congratulations on choosing to accept the calling to evangelize! Please consecrate your desire by using the following prayer:

**O, my heavenly Father,
I give all of my life to you in the name of Your Son, my Lord Jesus Christ,
and through the power of Your Holy Spirit.
I have heard You calling me,
and I choose to follow where Your Son leads me.
I want to help others
find their way into Your kingdom.
I want to serve others
so that they can experience Your love.
Use me.
Use the talents, the resources, the time,
the experiences, the spiritual growth,
and everything else You have given me.
Use me.
Help me to love all people unconditionally
to reveal Jesus to others through me.
Help me to grow in my desire to love all people.
Today, and every day, help me to decrease
so that You may increase in me.
Help me to love purely, humbly, and generously.
Show me how to receive more of Your love
so that I have more love to give.
Heal me of every obstacle that holds me back
from serving You.
I give You permission to change me.
Here I am, Lord, I want to do Your will.
Amen.**