

Prayers of Encouragement

Gatherings to reflect upon the Sunday scriptures, the catechism, and the Christian faith will normally include the reading of scripture and prayer. A biblical reading may be read, followed by a period of silent prayer. The catechist may end these prayers with one of the following or another appropriate prayer. The concluding prayer may be spoken over either the entire group or each catechumen. The catechist may extend hands over the catechumen or lay hands upon the catechumen's head. Other prayers and blessings are included in the catechetical guide.

L The Lord be with you.

R And also with you.

L Let us pray.

Merciful and most high God, creator and life-giver of all that is,
you have called all people from darkness into light,
from error into truth, from death into life.

We ask you: grant grace to [names] and bless them.

Raise them by your Spirit.

Revive them by your word.

Form them by your hand.

Bring them to the water of life and to the bread and cup of blessing,
that with all your people they may bear witness to your grace
and praise you forever through Jesus Christ our Lord.

R Amen

For those preparing to affirm their baptism

L Let us pray.

Merciful and most high God, creator and life-giver of all that is,
you have called all people from darkness into light,
from error into truth, from death into life.

We ask you: grant grace to [names] and bless them.

Raise them by your Spirit.

Revive them by your word.

Form them by your hand.

Renew in them the water of life
and feed them with the bread and cup of blessing,
that with all your people they may bear witness to your grace
and praise you forever through Jesus Christ our Lord.

R Amen

Or

L Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God,
that in many ways and through many people

your Holy Spirit gathers us into your church.
Be present with us now and always
that, discovering the length and height and depth of your love for us,
we may be filled with the fullness of your grace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

R **Amen**