**Blessing for a Pastor, Parochial Vicar, or Staff Member Leaving the Parish**

**Leader:**

Brothers and sisters, Jesus commissioned his disciples to preach the Good News to the ends of the earth. Today we send our friend, N., to proclaim the Gospel in new ways. Let us listen to God’s Word.

*A lector proclaims Romans 10:9-18 or another appropriate reading.*

*After the reading, the leader may invite members of the assembly to share stories about how the ministry of the person leaving has been a proclamation of the Gospel for that community.*

**Leader:**

God feeds us with the Word of Life. Let us pray for our brother/sister, N., that God may continue to nourish him/her all the days of his/her life.

**Reader:**

For N., for Christ to fill his/her heart with compassion for God’s people, his/her hands with strength to do God’s will, and his/her mouth to speak God’s peace. We pray to the Lord.

For all ministers, for the Holy Spirit to bring to completion the good work begun in them by Christ. We pray to the Lord.

For our community, for comfort in the absence of our friend and renewed commitment to the vision of the Kingdom. We pray to the Lord.

For the community that will receive N., for a gracious welcome, a generosity of spirit, and genuine care for our friend. We pray to the Lord.

For those who long to hear the Word of God, for those who are poor and hungry, those without work or companionship. We pray to the Lord.

**Leader:** Let us extend our hands in blessing as we pray for our brother/sister.

Lord Jesus, Word Made Flesh,

from the beginning of creation you named and claimed us for yourself.

Look with kindness upon your servant, N., who leaves this community

marked by your cross, fed by your word,

filled with our care for him/her, and sent to be your body and blood to all he/she meets.

Guide him/her on his/her way, and bless him/her with your Spirit,

that he/she may be a word of hope for a world in need.

We ask this in your holy name, Jesus,

for you are Lord for ever and ever. Amen.

*Copyright © 2010, Diana Macalintal.*

**Blessing to Welcome a New Pastor, Parochial Vicar, or Staff Member to the Parish**

**Leader:**

Brothers and sisters, we give thanks to God today for the gift of N., who has accepted the invitation to serve God’s people in this parish. Let us pray for N. and for our community, that all of us together may continue to grow in faith and in love for Jesus who calls us to be his servants to all those in need.

God our Father,

your Son Jesus promised to be with your people to the end of the ages

and to accompany them in love through the gift of the Holy Spirit.

We praise you for sending us your servant, N.,

who has chosen to walk with us on our journey of faith.

Fill him/her with that same Spirit of Christ

that he/she may come to know and love us as you know and love your own people.

Heal whatever loss he/she may feel from what has been left behind,

and ease any anxiety that comes with starting something new.

Through his/her leadership,

help us continue to grow as a faithful community,

committed to serving you in the least of our brothers and sisters.

Lord,

may everything we do begin with your inspiration

and continue with your help,

so that all our prayers and works

may begin in you and by you be happily ended.[[1]](#footnote-1)

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Copyright © 2013, Diana Macalintal.*

1. This paragraph from *Book of Blessings*, #552, Blessing of those gathered at a meeting, p. 241. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)