

APOSTOLIC BLESSING

1123 In his introduction to the penitential rite of the Mass, the bishop should advise the faithful of the papal blessing with plenary indulgence that he will bestow at the end of Mass, and he should invite them to repent of their sins and dispose themselves to share in this indulgence.

In place of the usual formulary that concludes the penitential rite, the following one is used:

May blessed Mary, ever virgin,
the holy apostles Peter and Paul,
and all the saints
assist you with their merits and prayers.

May the almighty and merciful Lord forgive you
and free you from all your sins.

May he help you persevere in fruitful penance,
good example, and sincere charity,
and lead you to everlasting life.

R. Amen.

1124 The general intercessions are to include the intention for the Church, and a special intention for the Roman Pontiff is to be added.

1125 After the Prayer after Communion, the bishop puts on the miter, and the deacon announces the blessing in the following or similar words:

The Most Reverend Father, N.,
by the grace of God and the Apostolic See,
Bishop of this holy Church of N.,
will give the (apostolic) blessing with a plenary indulgence,
in the name of the Roman Pontiff,
to all present who are truly penitent
and have confessed their sins and received Holy Communion.

Pray to God for our Most Holy Father, Pope N.,
our Bishop, N., and for holy Mother Church
and strive, by holiness of life,
to walk in full communion with it.

- 1126 The bishop, with mitre, then stands and, with hands outstretched over the people, greets them, **The Lord be with you**, and all reply, **And with your spirit**. The deacon then may say the words of invitation, **Bow down for the blessing**, or something similar. The bishop, with hands outstretched over the people, pronounces the formulary for the proper solemn blessing provided in *The Roman Missal*. Then he takes the pastoral staff and concludes the blessing with the following formulary:

Through the intercession of the blessed Apostles Peter and Paul,
may almighty God bless you,
✠ the Father, ✠ and the Son, and ✠ the Holy Spirit.

R. **Amen.**

As he says the final words he makes the Sign of the Cross three times over the people.