

## THE BLESSING OF A NEW MINISTRY.

To be used for the beginning of ministry as an Area Minister, Area Formation Guardian, Area Novice Guardian, Local Group Convenor, or on any other suitable occasion.

The Rite may be used in the Eucharist after the Gospel, before Professions, Renewals and Novicings.  
*or* in the Third Order Office after the Cross Prayers and before Novicings  
*or* if necessary at some other point in the above services, *or* on its own.

The Officiant will normally be the Area Minister, but may be another member of the Area Team, delegated the task.

*Officiant.* We are gathered here to welcome and ask for God's blessing on (N...) who has been chosen to serve as.....amongst us

The candidate comes forward and is addressed by the Officiant.

*Officiant* N in the presence of this gathering do you commit yourself to this trust and responsibility?

*Office Holder.* **I do.**

*Officiant,* Will you guard those put in your care, nurture them in the faith and by your life and example proclaim the living word among them, after the spirit of the blessed Francis?.

*Office Holder,* **I will, God being my helper.**

*Officiant.* Will you see that the Rule of the Third Order is maintained with love, patience and understanding ?

*Office Holder* **I will, God being my helper.**

*Officiant.* Brothers and Sisters will you love and support N in this his/her ministry?

*All* We will

*Officiant* Let us silently offer our prayers to God and ask his blessing on N... .

The candidate kneels before the Officiant, or bows in prayer and a period of silence is observed. The Officiant then invites those present to stretch out their right hands over the office holder as the Officiant says

*Officiant* May our blessed Lady pray for you  
May St Francis St Clare and all franciscan saints pray for you  
May the holy angels befriend and protect you

And I will pronounce upon you the blessing which our holy father Francis gave to brother Leo his companion.....