**ORDER OF BLESSING OF AN OFFICE**

*Before the blessing the cutting of the ribbon takes place, if there is any.*

**INTRODUCTORY RITE**

*When the community has gathered in a convenient place, a suitable song is sung. After the singing, the celebrant says:*

**Celebrant:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**All**: Amen.

**Celebrant**: May God, who has given us power over the works of his hands, be with you all.

**All:** And with your spirit.

**Celebrant:** In his own life Christ Jesus clearly showed us the dignity of labor. When he became incarnate, the Word of the father was known as the carpenter’s son and willingly worked with the tools of his trade. By working with his own hands he transformed toil from being an inherited curse for sin into a source of blessings.

 If we do our work well, whatever it may be, and offer it to God, we purify ourselves and through the labor of our hands and minds we build up God’s creation. Our work enables us to practice charity and to help the less fortunate, so that joined to Christ the Redeemer, we grow in his love.

 Let us bless the Lord, then, and pray that he will shower his blessings on all who will work in this place.

**READING of the WORD of GOD**

Brothers and sisters listen to the words of the Book of Genesis [1:27-31]

God created man in his image; in the divine image he created him; male and female he created them.

God blessed them, saying: ‘Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that move on the earth.” God also said: “see, I give you every seed-bearing plant all over the earth and every tree that has seed-bearing fruit on it to be your food; and to all the animals of the land, all the birds of the air, and all the living creatures that crawl on the ground, I give all the green plants for food.” And so it happened. God looked at everything he had made, and he found it very good.

The word of the lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

**Responsorial Psalm:**

Response: Lord, give success to the work of our hands.

1. Before the mountains were begotten and the earth and the world were brought forth, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. R/
2. You turn man back to dust, saying “return, O children of men.” For a thousand years in your sight are as yesterday, now that it is past, or as a watch of the night. R/
3. Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain wisdom of heart. Return, O Lord! How long? Have pity on your servants! R/
4. Fill us at daybreak with your kindness that we may shout for joy and gladness all our days. Let your work be seen by your servants and your glory by their children. R/

**Intercessions**

**Priest: Our God created the world and filled it with marvelous signs of his power. He also blessed human toil from the very beginning, so that in modest imitation of the creator’s own goodness we might diligently devote ourselves to brining creation to its perfection. Let us then, offer our prayers to God, saying:**

**Lord, graciously guide the work of our hands**

1. Blessed are you, O Lord, who gave us the command to work, so that by relying on our minds and our hands we might devote ourselves to perfecting creation. We pray.
2. Blessed are you, O Lord, who willed that your Son made flesh for us should practice the carpenter’s trade. We pray
3. Blessed are you Lord, who in Christ made the yoke of toil sweet and its burden light. We pray.
4. Blessed are you, O Lord, who in your providence move us always to strive to do our best.
5. Blessed are you, O Lord, who receive with favor the offering of our labor, so that it becomes an offering of penance, brings joy to our brothers and sisters, and helps the poor. We pray.

**Prayer of Blessing**

**Celebrant:** O God, in your wise providence you are glad to bless all human labor, the work of our hands and of our minds. Grant that all who plan and conduct business in this office may through your guidance and support come to right decisions and carry them out fairly.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All**: amen.

*After the prayer of blessing the celebrant sprinkles those present and the place with holy water, while a suitable song is sung.*

**CONCLUDING RITE**

**Celebrant**: May God, the father of goodness, who commanded us to help one another as brothers and sisters, bless this new building with his presence and look kindly on all who enter here.

**All:** amen.

**Celebrant**: And may almighty God bless you all, the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit.

**All:** Amen.