

ORDER OF BLESSING OF VETERANS

Based on and modified from *The Book of Blessings*, "Order for the Blessing of Organizations Concerned with Public Need" (587) and *Roman Missal* "Masses for Various Needs: In time of War or Civil Disturbance."

INVITATION TO PRAYER

Presider: On Veterans' Day we remember all those who have given of their life in the service of peace. First celebrated at the end of the "war to end all wars," Armistice Day—or Veterans' Day—invites us to hold up in prayer all those in every land who made sacrifices in order to ensure a lasting peace.

I invite all those veterans of our community to please stand as we extend a blessing to you.

PRAYER OF BLESSING

Presider: Blessed are you, Lord, God of mercy, who through your Son gave us a marvelous example of sacrifice and the great commandment to love one another. Send down your blessings on these your servants, who so generously devoted themselves to the cause of peace. Remember also all those who have died in the defense of life. When all these men and women are called on in times of need, let them faithfully serve you in their neighbor. Help us all to overcome war and violence, and to establish your law of love and justice.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

FINAL BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Presider: May the Lord be with you...