

# Bible Enthronement Rituals and Offertory of the Word of God



*from the*

CBCP EPISCOPAL COMMISSION ON  
THE BIBLICAL APOSTOLATE

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**To the Biblical Apostolate Directors, Coordinators and Parish Animators in the Philippines**

We present to you some Bible Enthronement rituals and a proposed guide for the Offertory of the Word of God within the Mass.

We hope that this humble offering in celebration of the **National Bible Month 2021** may be of help to you and the faithful, and inspire you as well, as we all do the ministry together promoting and proclaiming the Word of God.

In the Word and for the Word,

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Noted by:

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## Offertory of the Word of God

*This is a ritual to be done within the Mass.*

### **Preparation**

#### **Materials:**

2 candles

Flowers (optional)

Lectionary and Gospel Books

#### **Song:**

Thy Word\* – *recorded or sung live.*

*Other appropriate songs may be used.*

#### **Persons Involved:**

##### To receive

Mass Presider

2 Sacristans

2 Lectors

##### To Offer:

4 Parishioners (2 candles, 1 for the Lectionary, 1 for the Gospel Book. Additional parishioners may be included for the flowers)

#### **Ritual**

1. The Offertory begins after the Opening Prayer. This signifies the start of the Liturgy of the Word.
2. Offerers will begin from the end of the main aisle, where the Procession at the start of the mass begins. The

recipients will stand in front of the people facing the offerers. The set-up is similar to the Offertory for Bread and Wine.

3. The Offerers will proceed to the front of the Church where the Presider, Sacristans and Lectors are waiting. While the procession is on-going, "Thy Word" is played or sung live.

4. The priest will receive the candles and hand them over to the sacristans. The sacristans will place the candles in front of the lectern.

5. The priest will receive the Lectionary and hand it over to Lector 1. Lector 1 will place the Lectionary on the lectern.

6. The priest will receive the Gospel book, and bless the offerers with it. Then the Book is handed over to Lector 2, who will place it on the book stand on top of the altar table.

7. The priest returns to the Presider's seat and the Proclamation of the Word of God proceeds.

*Note: This Offertory of the Lectionary and the Gospel Book in the Liturgy of the Word is patterned after the Offertory of the Bread and Wine in the Liturgy of the Eucharist.*

## **Bible Enthronement Rituals**

*Enthroning the Bible is a long-standing tradition of the Church. At council meetings the celebration has been used to start the activity. During the Second Vatican Council, the Bible was enthroned every morning at the start of the sessions. This was done to remind the Bishops participating that Christ is present in their midst through His word, and that in order to effectively speak about Christ, they have to first listen to His Word.*

*Christ is made present to the community through the words of Scripture and the sacraments. Reverence is shown to the Bible to affirm that it is part of what nourishes Christian life. The Bible is both source of inspiration and guide for action.*

*Enthronement of the Bible is our affirmation of the importance of the Sacred Scriptures in our lives. Enthronement before an activity invites the presence of Christ in the activity. Enthronement in the home or in the workplace invites the presence of Christ in the place where we are every day.*

### **Bible Enthronement for the Home**

#### **Preparation:**

*Select a space where the Bible is to be enthroned. If the family already has an altar, the same space can be used. If there is none, select a prominent place where the Bible will be shown proper reverence. The place should be easily visible in the home but not near areas of high activity, which means that on top of the television or beside it is not recommended. A book stand is*

*recommended to facilitate reading from the Bible when necessary. For the enthronement, prepare candles and flowers. Assign the reading parts to the different members of the family. Hymns for the enthronement may be practiced ahead of time, or select the ones already familiar to the family.*

## **Rite of Enthronement**

### **I. Procession.**

*The Enthronement starts with the procession of the Bible from the entrance to the home to the designated place for enthronement. Ideally, the head of the family will be the one to hold the Bible. The Bible is held aloft by both hands. Those holding the candles and flowers follow, then the rest of the family. The Bible is placed on the stand in an opened position. The candles and flowers are placed beside the Bible. Make sure that the flowers and candles do not overwhelm the Bible but rather draw attention to it.*

### **Processional Hymn:**

**Thy Word** (Amy Grant/Michael W. Smith)

### **II. Introduction**

Our family is gathered here today to enthrone the Bible which holds the Word of God. We do this to give reverence to the Bible. We enthrone the Bible to invite the presence of Christ into our home and into our hearts.

### **III. Reading**

*Ideally, the Scripture verses should be read from the Bible enthroned.*

### **A Reading from the Book of Joshua (Joshua 24:14-15)**

Now therefore, revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. Now, if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.

### **IV. Reverence to the Bible**

*One at a time, the members of the family will go in front of the Bible and kneel or bow towards the Bible as a sign of respect and honor.*

### **V. Prayer of the Family**

*(The prayer may be divided into parts and distributed among the members of the family)*

### **Stay With Us, Lord**

Jesus you came into our home today and we thank you for being with us. Be with us always and stay with us through the ups and downs of life. Be with us when we are happy, and be with us when there are problems and worries in our family when we find it hard to understand and be patient with one another.

A long time ago, You stayed with the family of Martha and Mary and Lazarus. You brought peace to

their family and courage in time of sorrow. You made their house a home of love and understanding.

Stay with us, Lord, while our family is united, when joy and laughter make everything in the family easy and happy. Stay with us too, when the members of the family have gone their separate ways to their own families and their own dreams. Keep them in your love wherever they may be.

Stay with us, Lord, to remind us always that true peace and joy comes only at the price of sacrifice. Without sacrifice, we know that we will be selfish and unconcerned for others. Help us always to remember and to think of each other in the family, and not just ourselves.

Stay with us, Lord, when there is trouble in our home. When there is discord and misunderstanding between the old and the young. When there is coldness between mother and father, brother and sister. Stay with us when we fight with one another. Teach us to forgive and to forget.

Stay with us, Lord, and let your presence in our family be a bond of union. Banish all jealousy and strife among us. Teach us not to be envious of one another, but to love all equally. Teach us to dissolve the silence that creeps into our family sometimes when we do not understand each other, because that silence can make us bitter. That silence can grow into dislike and even hatred.



Teach us always to talk to one another – honestly and in love.

Stay with us, Lord, when there is sickness in our home. It is then specially, that we need Your courage and trust. You know what is best for each one of us. Give us the grace to accept Your will at all times – in health, in sickness, in life, and in death.

Stay with us, Lord, when we grow older and seem to be left aside in the family. Support us with your love all the days of our life until the evening shadows come, so that we may always find You in the darkness. Be with us when the fever of life is over and our work is done. Then in Your mercy, call us to enduring peace and unending rest with You and our family in our eternal home with You in heaven. Amen. (*from Prayers for Families*)

## **VI. Greetings of Peace**

*Everyone is encouraged to greet with peace everyone present in the celebration.*

### **Bible Enthronement in the Workplace/Office**

*To enthrone the Bible in the workplace is to affirm that the presence of Christ must also permeate the places where people work. It also serves as a reminder that all areas of a Christian's life are under the inspiration of Jesus.*

*In selecting a place where the Bible is to be enthroned, choose an easily accessible and visible place but away from*

*areas that are noisy and activity- heavy. The areas where there are fax machines, printers, copying machines or other kinds of machines are not advisable. Arrange the place of enthronement in such a way that it creates a prayerful and respectful atmosphere. After enthronement, the Bible should not be left there as a sort of decoration. All are encouraged to read regularly from it. A certain time each week can even be set aside, even just a few minutes for all to gather around the Bible and listen to a reading. The reading for the previous Sunday can be the reading for each week, thereby prolonging also the reflection of the people on what they have heard that Sunday.*

### **Preparation**

*Prepare the area where the Bible is to be enthroned. A stand or table is ideal. A cloth may also be draped over it. A book stand is also advised to help maintain the Bible in an open position. Prepare flowers and candles to be used in the enthronement rite.*

### **I. Opening Song: :**

#### **Thy Word (Amy Grant/Michael W. Smith)**

*During the song, there will be a procession from the back of the room to the prepared area where the Bible will be enthroned. Candles first, then flowers, the Bible last. The Bible is held aloft during the procession but laid in an open position in the place where it will be enthroned. Alternatively, meditative instrumental music may be played for the procession.*

## II. Reading

### **A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah**

(Is. 55:6-11)

Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

*(Brief moment of silence for reflection)*

### **Intercessory Prayers**

As one community, we bring to God all our prayers and petitions.

1. Jesus, you are the Word of God. Help us to live in truth.

**Response: Lord hear our prayer.**

2. Jesus, you are the true Light. Show us the path to righteousness.

**Response: Lord hear our prayer.**

3. Jesus, you are the Emmanuel. Heal us with your presence.

**Response: Lord hear our prayer.**

4. Jesus, you are the Holy One of God. Lead us away from temptation.

**Response: Lord hear our prayer.**

Prayer Leader:

May the presence of God in His Word guide our work and our life. May it always nourish us and inspire us in everything we do.

All: Amen

**Closing Song:** Your Love Is In Me (Focolare)

