



Commissioning Ceremony for Small-Community Leaders

ARISE Together in Christ is essentially a spiritual process. We believe it is the work of God, guided by the Holy Spirit. Presenting the small-community leaders as the leaders for the *ARISE Together in Christ* process, in the context of a commissioning and blessing ceremony, underlines the spiritual significance of the ministry they have agreed to undertake on behalf of the community and explicitly invites the community to prayer. We strongly recommend, therefore, that this takes place during the Sunday eucharistic liturgy, after the homily.

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Presider

Addressing the congregation

We are always called to deepen our relationship with Christ.

Our parish has made a commitment

to grow together in holiness

by participating in the *ARISE Together in Christ* process.

Beginning this October,

many of us will be meeting in small communities once a week

to pray, read, reflect, and share on the Scriptures.

This is a wonderful opportunity

to open our hearts to God more fully,

and to grow in relationship with our brothers and sisters

in community.

Each of these small communities has a facilitator or leader

to guide the community

through the sharing and prayers of the session.

These leaders have already begun to prepare for their role

and will continue to do so

with the grace of God and our support.

I present to you now our small-community leaders.

Addressing the leaders

As your name is called, please come forward.

When the leaders are assembled

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Presider Are you willing to lead and guide the people
in your small community
in the parish of _____ (parish name)?

Leaders **Yes, we are with God's grace.**

Presider Are you committed to your own spiritual growth and renewal?

Leaders **Yes, we are with God's grace.**

Presider Are you willing to care for each member of your community
and respect the gifts and contributions of each one?

Leaders **Yes, we are with God's grace.**

Presider In the name of _____ (parish name),
I commission you as our **ARISE** small-community leaders.
We thank you for accepting this ministry
and we pledge to you our prayers and support.

Addressing the leaders

Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing.

Addressing the assembly

Let us now all extend our hands
and ask God's blessing on our leaders of the small communities.

Lord, bless our leaders of small communities
here at _____ (parish name).

Grant them wisdom, grace, and understanding
as they guide their brothers and sisters
in this faith- and life-sharing experience.

Open our hearts
so that all of us may grow deeper in our relationship with you
and one another during this time of spiritual renewal.

We ask your blessing
in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

Play or sing an appropriate song such as

"We Are Called," David Hass (GIA)

(*ARISE* CD 1, Track 12)

or

"Servant Song," Donna Marie McGargill, OSM (OCP)

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