

# Franciscan House Blessing

## *Begin:*

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Peace to this house and to all who live here.

Blessed are you, Lord God, king of all creation: through your goodness you have given this house to be a home for the N\_\_\_\_\_ family. Let your peace remain here always, and may their generous hospitality be extended to all who enter and share the life of this home.

We ask this through Christ Our Lord.

## *Reading: Psalms 127-128*

“Unless the Lord build the house, they labor in vain who build. Unless the Lord guard the city, in vain does the guard keep watch...” and “Blessed are all who fear the Lord, and who walk in his ways. What your hands provide you will enjoy; you will be blessed and prosper. Your wife will be like a fruitful vine with your home. Your children like young olive plants around your table. Just so will the man be blessed who fears the Lord.”

Using Holy Water, you may sprinkle those present, but sprinkle the door frames of all entrances into the home.

## *Prayer:*

Let us now pray together as Jesus taught us.

“Our Father \_\_\_\_\_”



Father, we give you thanks and praise for having made manifest, in Christ Jesus, your eternal plan of salvation. Jesus, your only begotten son, made his dwelling place among us and by his life-giving presence, graced the homes and tables of men and women like ourselves.

He grew and matured within the household of Mary and Joseph. His stay at the house of Zachaeus became a moment of salvation. He sent his disciples to bring his peace into whatever home they entered.

Father, we give you special thanks on this festival of Epiphany, for leading the magi from afar to the home of Christ who has given light and hope to all peoples. By the power of the guiding Spirit, may his presence be renewed in our home. Make it a place of forgiveness and peace, a place of prayer, service and family.

The family now marks the lintels with the date and initials of the magi.

20 + C + M + B + 21

*A custom in many homes of many countries is to inscribe above the doors leading into a home with the letters C + M + B, placing a cross between each letter. This is done every year on January 6, Epiphany, commemorating the wisemen being led by the star to the manger. The legendary names of the Magi were Casper, Melchoir, and Balthasar. Many people interpret the three letters as the initials of those names. In reality, these letters originate from the Latin phrase "Christus Marisem Benedicat," "May Christ bless this home." The religious custom expresses the belief that the Lord remains with His people throughout the year.*

***Final Prayer:***

As we mark this lintel, send the angel of mercy to guard our home and repel all powers of darkness. Fill those living here with a love for the evangelical life and warm them with the fullness of your grace.

And so, Father, may all who dwell here or grace its portals with their presence, find the joy and thoughtfulness of Mary, the God-bearer, and thus praise and thank you eternally, together with Jesus, the light of the nations, in the unity of the Holy Spirit and the Church, now and forever.

Amen

