

The Blessing of the Home of
Elizabeth L. Nolan
Richard C. Nolan and Robert C. Pingpank
Comes and Tenna
by
The Right Reverend Calvin O. Schofield
Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Southeast Florida

Thursday, December 19, 1996
at three o'clock in the afternoon



Immediately before the Bishop begins the Service with "Grace to you..." all may disperse, for comfort, in various rooms throughout the house and the porch and remain until that room is blessed. Until the final prayer, it is appropriate either to remain in that area or move to the porch, living room/dining area, or family room. Let ease be your guiding principle as you move about!

The peoples' responses are printed in italics.

AT THE ENTRANCE

After greeting the residents and guests, the Bishop shall move to the Entrance, saying,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, grant to this home the grace of your presence, that you may be known to be the inhabitant of this dwelling, and the defender of this household; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

THE BLESSING OF THE LIGHT

A candle is brought to the Bishop, who lights it and blesses it as follows.

Hear the words of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Saint Matthew.
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. Neither do people light a candle and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick, and it gives light to all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before all peoples, that they may see your good works, and glorify your father which is in heaven.

[Matthew 5:14]

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

There is sprung up a light for the righteous;
And joyful gladness for those who are true-hearted.

Let us pray.

O God, whose glory shines as the light in the face of Jesus Christ: Bless we ask you, this candle for the illumination of this place, and grant that as it gives light to all that are in this house, so those who enter here may show forth in their lives the brightness of good works; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Candle is carried before the Bishop into all the areas to be blessed.

AT THE INTERIOR DOORPOST: BLESSING OF THE MEZUZAH AND THE CROSS

While reading from the Hebrew Scriptures, the Bishop shall lay his hand on the Mezuzah.

Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. ...write them on the doorposts of your house...

[Deuteronomy 6:4-6,9]

... you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.

[Leviticus 19:18b]

While reading from the New Testament, the Bishop shall lay his hand on the Cross.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

[Matthew 22:40]

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

[John 1:14]

He is Risen. The Lord is risen, indeed!

[Mark 16:6]

[Luke 24:34]

Alleluia!

The Bishop continues.

The Lord shall preserve your going out and your coming in.

From this time for evermore.

Let us pray.

O Lord, who surrounds our paths and is acquainted with all our ways: Preserve all in this house in their going out and coming in, that ever seeking to walk with you, they may attain at last to your eternal habitations; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

THE BLESSING OF THE ROOMS AND THE PORCH

In The East Bedroom

Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping,
That awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in peace.

I lie down and go to sleep:
I wake again, because the Lord sustains me.

Let us pray.

O Heavenly Father, who ever guards your people by grace:
Bless, we ask you this room, and your servants who occupy it, that waking they may be thankful for your protection, and asleep they may rest in you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

In The East Bathroom

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering;
Having our bodies washed with pure water.

Let us pray.

O holy God, in the incarnation of your Son our Lord, you made our flesh the instrument of your self-revelation: Give us a proper respect and reverence for our mortal bodies, keeping them clean and fair, whole and sound; that, glorifying you in them, we may confidently await our being clothed with transfigured bodies, when that which is mortal is transformed by life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

In The Dining Area

He brings forth food from the earth, and wine to gladden our hearts:
Oil to make a cheerful countenance, and bread to strengthen the heart.

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O Lord, King of the universe, for you give us food and drink to sustain our lives: Make us grateful for all your mercies, and mindful of the needs of others; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

In The Living Room

Oh, how good and pleasant it is,
when God's people live together in unity.

Let us pray.

Give your blessing, Lord, to all who share this room, that they may be knit together in fellowship here on earth, and joined with the communion of your saints in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

On The Porch

God saw everything that he had made, and indeed it was very good.
On the seventh day God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

Let us pray.

O God, in the course of this busy life, give us times and places of refreshment and peace; and grant that we may so use our leisure to rebuild our bodies and renew our minds, that our spirits may be opened to the goodness of your creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

In the Family Room

Open your homes to each other with gladness;
Use the gifts you have received from God for the good of others.
Give thanks to God for his other creatures,
that provide companionship and joy for humankind.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, who by your holy Apostle has taught us to use hospitality with delight: Bless, we pray, this family room, that all who find leisure here may be received in true friendship and love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

In the Kitchen and Breakfast Nook

The eyes of all wait upon you, O Lord.
And you give them their food in due season.

Let us pray.

O Lord our God, you supply every need of ours according to your great riches: Bless those who work and eat in this place, and give us grateful hearts for daily bread; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

In the West Bedroom

Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping,
That awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in peace.

I lie down and go to sleep:
I wake again, because the Lord sustains me.

Let us pray.

O God of life and love, the true rest of your people: Sanctify to your servants their hours of rest and refreshment, their sleeping and their waking; and grant that, strengthened by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, they may rise to serve you all the days of their lives, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

In the West Bathroom

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering;
Having our bodies washed with pure water.

Let us pray.

O Gracious God, you created us in your image and in the fullness of time you became known to us by sight and touch through the Word made flesh: keep us, we ask you, ever mindful that we are precious to you both in body and soul, through our Lord Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

In the West Sitting Room

Do not busy yourself with many matters;
if you multiply activities, you will not be held blameless.

Let us pray.

O God, in the course of this busy life, give us times and places of refreshment and peace; and grant that we may so use our leisure to rebuild our bodies and renew our minds, that our spirits may be opened to the goodness of your creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Bishop returns to the living room for the blessing of the home.

THE BLESSING OF THE HOME

The effect of righteousness will be peace, and the result of righteousness tranquillity and trust for ever. My people will abide in secure dwellings and in quiet resting places.

Unless the Lord builds the house:
Their labor is in vain who build it.

Let us pray.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*said by all*)

The Bishop continues.

Visit, O blessed Lord, this home with the gladness of your presence. Bless all who live here with the gift of your love; and grant that they may manifest your love to each other and to all whose lives they touch. May they grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you; guide, comfort, and strengthen them; and preserve them in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord: And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.