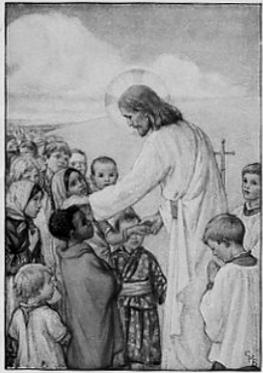


THE BLESSING OF CHILDREN



V. Our help is in the name of the Lord.

R. Who made heaven and earth.

V. Let the little ones come unto me.

R. To such belongs the kingdom of Heaven.

V. Their guardian angels...

R. Always see the face of the Father.

V. May the enemy never advance upon them.

R. And may the son of iniquity never approach to harm them.

V. O Lord, hear my prayer.

R. And let my cry come unto You.

V. The Lord be with you.

R. And also with you.

Prayer Over the Children

Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, who embraced the children who were brought to You and who came to You; and blessed them, placing Your hands upon them; and said, "Let the children come unto Me, and do not prevent them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven"; and, "Their angels always see the face of my Father"; Look down, we pray, upon the innocence of the children here present, and upon the devotion of their parents, and mercifully bless + them today through our ministry; that they may ever advance in Your grace and mercy; that they may know You, love You, fear You, and keep Your commands, and happily arrive at their desired goal. Through You, the Savior of the World, who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Prayer of Protection for their Families

Let us pray. O Lord, by the prayers of Blessed Mary ever Virgin, defend these families from every adversity; And, as they have wholeheartedly cast themselves at your feet, kindly and mercifully guard them from the snares of their enemies. Through Christ Our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer to their Guardian Angels

Let us pray. O God, who in your ineffable providence have sent your Holy Angels to watch over us, grant that your servants may be defended by their protection and enjoy their eternal company. Through Christ Our Lord. **Amen.**

The children are now sprinkled with holy water.