

## Commissioning for Evangelism Catalysts in the Church

*This form is adapted from The Book of Occasional Services: Commissioning for Lay Ministries in the Church. It's recommended to be used following the homily (and Creed) at a Eucharist on or before January 6, 2019.*

*You can omit the Examination altogether, or after the following Examination, the candidate(s) may be presented by an appointed sponsor, which could be the celebrant or another supportive leader/friend.*

*Symbols appropriate to the ministry may be given to the candidate(s) as they are commissioned. In this case, a set of the Royal Wedding Sermon "Power of Love" story sharing cards found on our diocesan website would be perfect!*

*The congregation being seated, the celebrant stands in full view of the people. The sponsors and candidates stand facing the celebrant.*

*The Celebrant says these or similar words (adapted from the general commissioning service to incorporate the collect for social justice)*

Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus, we are all baptized by the one Spirit into one Body, and given gifts for a variety of ministries for the common good. Our purpose is to commission *this person* in the Name of God and of this congregation and of the Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast to a special ministry to which *they are* called for a season.

*The Celebrant asks the sponsor or sponsors*

*Is this person* you are to present prepared by a commitment to Christ as Lord, by regular attendance at worship, and by the knowledge of *their* duties, to exercise *their* ministry to the honor of God, and the well-being of his Church?

*Sponsor*<sup>[ ]</sup><sub>SEP</sub> I believe *they are*.

*The Celebrant then says these or similar words*

You have been called an evangelism catalyst for this congregation. Will you, as long as you are engaged in this work, perform it with diligence?

*Candidate*

I will.

*Celebrant*

Will you faithfully and reverently execute the duties of your ministry to the honor of God, and the benefit of the members of this congregation and diocese?

*Candidate*

I will.

### **The Commissioning**

*The appointed antiphon may be read by all, or by the celebrant, or by some other person.*

*Sponsor*

I present to you *this person* to be admitted to the ministry of Evangelism Catalyst for this congregation and the Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast as they seek, name, and celebrate Jesus' loving presence in the stories of all people, and we thank God and them for inviting us all into more, with God's help.

*Antiphon*

You are my witnesses, says the Lord, and my servants whom I have chosen.

V. Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name:

R. Make known his deeds among the peoples.

Let us pray. (*Silence*)

O God, you manifest in your servants the signs of your presence: Send forth the Spirit of love upon this servant and each one of us, that in companionship with one another your abounding grace may increase; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

In the Name of God and of this congregation, I commission you, *NN*, as an Evangelism Catalyst in the Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast and give you these Story Sharing cards as a token of your ministry and our commitment to the whole Church's role in this ministry.

*When used with the Eucharist, the service continues with the Prayers of the People and the exchange of the Peace.*

*If you prefer to simply add a petition in the Prayers of the People, feel free to use wording from any of this commission service to create a petition that works for you.*