

Liturgy for Leave-Taking at the Conclusion of a Pastoral Relationship

Adapted from Praying Our Farewells (Franciscan Prayer Book)

*For use on the final Sunday of a shared ministry between priest and people,
with a representative of the bishop present.*

Introduction

A member of the vestry or the Bishop's Representative may say:

Today we mark a moment of transition in the life of this community, giving thanks for the ministry we have shared with The Rev. [Name], and acknowledging the conclusion of their pastoral relationship with this parish. In prayer and gratitude, we entrust one another to God's continuing care and presence.

All stand, as they are able.

Bishop's Representative

God of our beginnings and endings,
we give thanks for all that we have shared with **N.**,
and we ask your blessing as they continue on their journey.
May the love that is in our hearts
be a bond that unites us always, wherever we may be.
May the power of your presence
bless this moment of leave-taking;
this we ask for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.

Congregation

As you journey onward,
we ask forgiveness where we have failed you;
we give thanks for all you have given us;
we assure you of our love and prayers.

Departing Priest

As I prepare to depart, I ask forgiveness where I have failed you;
I give thanks for all that you have given to me;
I assure you of my love and prayers.

Bishop's Representative

As you all experience the pain of change, and the uncertainty of moving on,
I pray that you may also know the blessing of inner growth.

All

May we go forth in peace,
confident that God goes with us.

Bishop's Representative

As you meet the poor, the pained, and the stranger on the way,
may you see in each one the face of Christ.

All

We know that God goes with us.

Bishop's Representative

As you walk through the good times and the bad,
may you never lose sight
of the shelter of God's loving arms.

All

We know that God goes with us.

Bishop's Representative

As you ponder your decisions
and wonder about the fruits of your choices,
may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts.

All

We know that God goes with us.

Bishop's Representative

Let us pray.
Gracious God, we thank you for calling this priest and this community together in shared ministry.
As they now enter a season of transition,
shelter them from all anxiety,
grant them courage to meet the days ahead,
and grace to let go into new life;

through Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.

***If used after the Creed or the Prayers of the People:
The Peace is then exchanged.***

***If used after the Post-Communion Prayer:
The Blessing follows.***
