

COMMISSIONING CEREMONY FOR A TEAM BELONG MINISTRY

Use the following prayer service to commission your TEAM Belong Ministry during TEAM Belong Month. A TEAM Belong Ministry comprised of dedicated individuals, including members with disabilities, can make long-lasting, appropriate changes in your faith community.

Presider: Gracious God, you sent Jesus to establish your kingdom and invite all people to experience the fullness of your life. Send your Holy Spirit to be with us as we commission these ministers. Give them the grace to be models of hospitality to individuals of all abilities, like Jesus your Son. We ask this in Your name.

My brothers and sisters in Christ, God has given you the grace to say “yes” to the invitation to serve as members of the TEAM Belong ministry. You now have the opportunity to serve Christ and our parish and school in a special way.

Presider: Do you accept the responsibility, together with our pastor, parish staff, principal and school staff to provide accommodations so that we can welcome and create belonging for individuals of all abilities into our faith community?

Minister: Yes, I do.

Presider: Do you accept the responsibility, together with our pastor, parish staff, principal and school staff to educate our parishioners and students to be a supportive presence so that individuals of all abilities feel welcome to participate in our parish and school communities?

Minister: Yes, I do.

Presider: Do you accept the responsibility, together with our pastor and parish staff, principal and school staff to foster gospel values and promote the dignity of the human person so that our parish and school may continue to be transformed by the saving power of Jesus Christ?

Minister: Yes, I do.

Presider: Glory and praise be to God, who has called each of you by name, and who has brought you to respond now with such generosity and love.

Presider: Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing:

Blessed are you, Lord, God of mercy, who through your Son gave us a marvelous example of charity and the great commandment of love for one another. Send down your blessings on these your servants, who will devote themselves to this ministry. When they are called on in times of need, let them faithfully serve You and our parish family. Guide their efforts as they welcome and create belonging for individuals of all abilities as fellow missionary disciples. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Contributed by Santa Maria Del Popolo Parish, Mundelein, IL.