



Catholic Archdiocese of Lagos
Year of Prayer 2024
Preparing for the Jubilee Year 2025

RITE OF INAUGURATION OF THE YEAR OF PRAYER

After the Profession of Faith, the priest leads the congregation in the Rite of Inauguration of the Year of Prayer saying:

i. Prayer is vital to the Christian life, Jesus himself showed us by His example the need to establish and sustain relationship with God through prayer, since it was such a significant part in His life. During the thirty years of His hidden life, Jesus lived an ordinary, quiet, and prayerful life. At the commencement of his Ministry, He withdrew to the wilderness to commune with the Father. He prayed before choosing his Apostles. Time and again, He would withdraw to a lonely place to pray, and when his Passion was near, he went to the Garden to pray. Christ Jesus, taught his disciples To Pray, and St. Paul urges us to "Pray without ceasing".

ii. Today, as we inaugurate of the Year of Prayer in our Archdiocese (this Church), we call on you all to deepen your own prayer life and love of God, and *accompany someone else to pray during this Year of Prayer*. Above all, I invite you all to enthrone God more in your hearts and make prayer a daily guide.

iii. Now, I call on you to make your commitment in this regard

- Do you promise to show greater reverence and attention to Prayer?

Response: Yes, I do.

- Do you commit to regular Prayers as individuals and collectively as families, especially through the Eucharist, the Word of God, the Rosary and other traditional catholic prayers?

- **Response: Yes I do.**

- Do you promise to strive with the grace of God to encourage and lead to pray more during this Holy period?

- **Response: Yes I do.**

Then after a brief moment of silent commitment by all, the priest says the following prayer:

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Celebrant: Let us now implore God, our loving Father to bestow on us his grace to respond to his word in a fitting manner.

1. **Lector:** For our Holy Father, Pope Francis, our Archbishop, Alfred Adewale Martins and Church leaders at all levels: May they strive evermore to a life of prayer and may the prayers they offer be ever pleasing God's sight and benefit God's people spiritually and materially: *Let us pray to the Lord.*

Response: Lord, in your mercy hear our prayer

2. **Lector:** For the gift of persistency in prayer: That may we be granted the gift of persevering faith and hope, amidst the difficulties we face in life, rather than giving up on prayers: *Let us pray to the Lord.*

Response: Lord, in your mercy hear our prayer

3. **Lector:** For all those who cannot pray: That this Year of Prayer may enkindle and increase in them the knowledge of the love of God our Father and their trust in His capacity to hear and help us through

prayers: *Let us pray to the Lord.*

Response: Lord, in your mercy hear our prayer

4. **Lector:** **For all those who do not believe in prayers:** That through this Year of Prayer, they may find assurance consolation, strength and guidance from the faith of those who believe in prayers: *Let us pray to the Lord.*

Response: Lord, in your mercy hear our prayer

In the silence of our hearts, lets us also pray for our personal intentions.....

We pray with Mary, the Mother of the Church, who was with the Apostles praying on the day of Pentecost. **Hail Mary, full of grace....**

The Minister together with the people says the Jubilee prayer:

Father in heaven, may the *faith* you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of *charity* enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed *hope* for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen.

The minister concludes the rite by saying:

Priest: We thank You, O God, for every blessing and for all the gifts we have received, teach us to recognize Your hand in every moment of our lives and to welcome each day as a gift of Your mercy and love. O Father, in Your mercy, hear Your children's pleas. As we prepare for the Jubilee of 2025, renew our faith, increase the virtues of hope and charity in us, and help us be witnesses of Your love in the world. Open our hearts to come to you often in prayers and enlighten our minds so that we may understand your will and fully experience the gifts of mercy and forgiveness. Open our eyes to the beauty of Your creation so that our hearts may rejoice in the wonder and greatness of Your works. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Response: Amen

After the Rite of inauguration, the mass continues as usual.