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# *A Blessing for Committees in a New Year of Service*

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*Begin the blessing by gathering everyone informally and taking some time for socializing, in order to ensure that everyone knows everyone else. Have suitable refreshments on hand for welcoming in this new year of service. After a suitable mingling time, begin the blessing as follows:*

*Leader* We gather in this new year to do the work of the Lord. We are called to be servants, workers in the vineyard, always putting our gifts at the service of our parish and our community. Let us ask God's blessing on each one of us and on the work we are going to do.

## **READING: 1 PETER 4:8–11**

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen. *(silent reflection)*

## BLESSING

*Leader* We all have gifts to share. May we be filled with spirit and energy in this new year.

*All* Fill us with your light, O Lord.

*Leader* In our work we have many opportunities to enrich and strengthen our parish. May we be filled with courage and vision in this new year.

*All* Fill us with your strength, O Lord.

*Leader* We ask for grace to overcome differences and strive for unity in all that we do. May we be filled with compassion and mercy in this new year.

*All* Fill us with your love, O Lord.

*Leader* Our parish should be seen as a place of welcome, of nurture, and of peace. May we be filled with patience and wisdom in this new year.

*All* Fill us with your hope, O Lord.

*Leader* May the God of all goodness, strength, mercy, and love fill us with peace, gentleness, conviction, and purpose. May God bless all that we do to help build the kingdom in this place. May we feel the grace and power of the Spirit as we pray together, talk together, discern together, and decide together. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

*All* Amen.