BLESSING AND COMMISSIONING OF MENTAL HEALTH MINISTERS

Commissioning of Mental Health Ministry Members from (Name of Parish / Diocese) (Would the Mental Health Ministry members present please join us here at the altar.)

Our parish /diocese has become part of the Catholic Mental Health Ministry Network. Mental Health Ministers work to eliminate the stigma and discrimination that people living with a mental illness encounter in the Church and in our society. Mental Health Minister provide parish-wide education about mental illness so that we can turn our parish into a place where people are not afraid to talk about mental illness.

This morning (or afternoon or evening), we will commission the new Mental Health Ministry team members who will serve within our (parish /diocese)Mental Health Ministers serve as “prayerful companions” offering spiritual support to fellow parishioners experiencing mental illness to assist them to live in holiness. To the parents, family members and friends of people living with a mental illness, mental health ministers provide spiritual support in their efforts to care for and help their loved ones.

Mental Health Ministers do not take on the role of a psychologist, psychiatrist or therapist. They simply supply “Christian love, prayer and true human connections” – in other words, the “Catholic spiritual component” that is often left out in the treatment of mental illness.

I would like to introduce the ministry members here with us this morning (or afternoon or evening): (read names / parish), along with (read names / parish of those not present) who were not able to be with us. These (parish / diocesan) mental health ministry members will now be available to all those in our (parish / diocesan) family who have questions or concerns related to mental health. We are truly blessed to have this Mental Health Ministry Outreach join the other ministries serving within our parish / diocesan community. \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

BLESSING

God of all compassion,

You sent your Son into the world to proclaim the Good News of salvation and to heal those who were afflicted in any way. Through him you call your people to walk in newness of life and to care compassionately for those who are marginalized because of mental health conditions.

Bless our brothers and sisters, your servants, who have responded to the needs of our parish / diocese. Grant that they will receive with kindness all those who are experiencing mental health challenges as well as their loved ones. May their ministry among us of spiritual support and education dispel any stigma and be a sign of our care and compassion for all.

Strengthen them by your grace so that, in serving their brothers and sisters, they may serve Christ himself. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

On behalf of the entire (parish / diocese), I thank you all for helping to end the stigma that, to this day, surrounds mental health and for serving those in our (parish / diocese) with mental health challenges. Go and serve with Our Lord’s blessings.