

Strengthening the Caring Community

- Sample Commissioning Ceremony -

Those who commit themselves to ministry in our parishes, publicly serve in the name of the Church. Therefore, it is important that there be public recognition of their role and of the responsibilities they assume. When such persons formally begin ministry within a parish, a ceremony of commissioning can take place presided over by the Pastor or his delegate at all liturgies one weekend. Such a celebration is an appropriate and effective means of affirming the value of this ministry and this Program.

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**Leader:** We now ask our Parish Volunteer Screening Committee Members and Coordinator to come forward to be commissioned.

**Pastor:** On behalf of this parish community of whom you have been designated to serve, I commission you to serve on the Parish Volunteer Screening Committee. Service to the people of God takes many forms and requires a diversity of gifts and talents as well as a total gift of self. Your sharing in responsibility for the mission of the Church and the ministry of Jesus will be joined with the efforts of others throughout the Archdiocese of Toronto to help Strengthen our Caring Communities.

Do you understand and accept the responsibility of serving on the Parish Volunteer Screening Committee?

**Committee and Coordinator:** We do.

**Pastor:** Loving God, bless and strengthen these women and men who are committing themselves to serve our community. Help them to be sensitive to the demands of their positions, formed in your Word, and committed in their service. Lord, please accept our prayer in the name of Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.

**All:** AMEN

