

Employee Commissioning Ceremony

[Each person needs a copy of the mission statement of the institution or the values statement or the values booklet or some other similar document.]

Leader

As new employees at *[name the institution]*, you have been called to join in our mission of education, a holistic education which prepares students for life in all its facets. *[If appropriate add some aspects of the particular mission statement or values statement of the institution.]* In your own unique and special way, each of you will contribute to the effectiveness of our mission.

Please stand and join in affirming your commitment to this ministry.

All

We ask God to help us as we accept this call to ministry. We commit ourselves to encourage a campus community which

- Continues the ministry of education through the philosophy, mission and values of *[name the institution]* recognizing that these values echo the values of our sponsors, the Sisters of St. Joseph;
- Manifests respect and concern for all persons;
- Strives for excellence in the education we provide;
- Fosters a hospitable and caring campus community;
- Seeks ways to respond to "the needs of the times";
- Works to make a difference in the local and world community.

Leader

God, our Creator, you have given us the gift of life and the privilege of serving others through meaningful work.

All

Help us to be aware of our capabilities and our limitations. Strengthened by working together, let us value the contributions of each member of the campus community.

Leader

Generous God, you call us to minister in this time and place.

All

Loving God, we accept this ministry of education at *[name the institution]*. Grant us enthusiasm for the task you set before us, give us the joy of good companionship and make us generous in our support of our colleagues. Open our hearts to accept all people, especially those most different from ourselves. Amen.

Leader

[If you have not done so before, distribute the values/mission statement you have chosen to use.]

When you join the education ministry, you pledge your minds and hearts to become God's tools -- instruments of growth, an enlivening force in the lives of others.

Take a few minutes to reflect on the values contained in *[name whatever document you want them to use]*. While we recognize that no one person can manifest all of the values of the institution with the same quality and enthusiasm, each of us can strive to embody one value of the institution with particular clarity.

Reflection *[Accompany this reflection with meditative music.]*

Which aspect of the mission of *[name the institution]* will I commit myself to witness in a sterling way to the campus community?

Leader

God, you touched us and made us holy, looking upon us with wonder and awe. In turn, we look upon ourselves and see the imprint of your hand, the shape of your Spirit, the image of your face. We praise you and give you thanks, O good and gracious God.

All

Loving God let us experience your compassionate and gentle strength. Give us courage and make us eager to embody the mission of this institution so that all of our students may grow in their awareness of you and strengthen their ability to serve and enliven the world around them.

Leader

Let us go forth, empowered by God and by each other, to continue the ministry of education at *[name the institution]*.

All

Amen.