

Bless You!

Participating in
God's Intention to
Bless the World

Psalm 67

God's Blessing

The Lord said to Moses, "Speak to Aaron and to his sons, saying, 'Thus you shall bless the sons of Israel':

The Lord **ble**ss you,
and keep you;

The Lord make **His face shine** on you,
And be gracious to you;

The Lord **lift up His countenance** on you,
And give you peace (*Num. 6:22-26*)

Bless the World!

First word after creation (*Gn 1:27-28*)

Continues after the Fall (*Gn 9:1*)

Blessing Abraham/Israel (*Gn. 12:1ff.*)

"Blessed are the poor..." (*Mt. 5:3ff.*)

Church receives blessing of Abraham
(*Gal. 3:8-9; 13-14*)

Psalm 67

Bless us and all the nations (1-2)

May all the peoples praise you (3)

For the joy of your universal rule (4)

May all the peoples praise you (5)

Bless us and all the ends of the
earth (6-7)

Significance

- The Church – like Abraham, like Israel – is blessed in order to be blessing to others
- It is the manifestation of God's blessing – the kindness of God – that attracts the nations

Kindness of God in Action

"And the Lord's bond-servant must **not** be **quarrelsome**, but be **kind to all**, able to teach, **patient when wronged**, with **gentleness** correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will." (2 Tim. 2:24-26)

Kindness of God in Action

Remind them
to be subject to rulers, to authorities,
to be obedient,
to be ready for **every good deed**,
to malign **no one**,
to be uncontentious,
gentle,
showing **every consideration** for **all men**.

Kindness of God in Action

For we also once were foolish ourselves,
disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various
lusts and pleasures, spending our life in
malice and envy, hateful, hating one
another. But when the kindness of God our
Savior and His love for mankind appeared,
He saved us, not on the basis of deeds
which we have done in righteousness, but
according to His mercy... (Ti 3:1-5)

Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred let me sow love,
Where there is injury let me sow pardon,
Where there is doubt, faith,
Where there is despair, hope
Where there is darkness, light,
And where there is sadness, joy.

Prayer of St. Francis

O Divine Master,
Grant that I may not seek so much
to be consoled as to console,
To be understood as to understand,
To be loved as to love.

Prayer of St. Francis

For it is in giving that we receive,
It is in forgiving that we are forgiven,
And it is in dying that we are born to
eternal life.

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