BLESSING OF SEEDS, SOIL AND WATER (based on Rogation Days: Blessing of Fields and Gardens*)

Rogation Days were celebrated on the three days before the Solemnity of the Ascension. They may now be celebrated at any time when appropriate to bless gardens, fields, seeds be blessed the coming season. The blessing can take place in context of weekend Masses, with an optional procession of anyone with items to be blessed that can be placed near a side altar where appropriate.

All make the sign of the cross. The leader begins:

Let us together praise the Lord, from whom we have rain from the heavens and abundance from the earth. Blessed be God now and for ever.

All respond: Amen

The leader may use these or similar words to introduce the blessing:

Let us bless God, whose might has created the earth and whose providence has enriched it. God has given us the earth to cultivate, so that we may gather its fruits to sustain life. As we thank God for this bounty, let us learn also, as the Gospel teaches, to seek first God’s way of holiness: then all we need will be given us besides.

Blessing over seeds, soil and water: Then leader prays – followed by blessing of holy water over the seeds, soil and water:

O God, from the very beginning of time
you commanded the earth to bring forth vegetation and every fruit of every kind.
You provide the sower with seed, soil and water, and give bread to eat.
Grant, we pray, that these fruits of your creation, enriched by your bounty and cultivated by human hands, may be fertile with life and sustenance. Then your people, enriched by the gifts of your goodness, will praise you unceasingly now and for all ages unending.
Grant this through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

...followed by blessing of holy water over the seeds, soil and water.

Blessing over those gathered and for farmers/growers: Leader prays – and may bless assembly with holy water, if desired:

Blessed are you, O God,
Creator of the universe, who have made all things good and given the earth for us to cultivate.
Grant that we may always use created things gratefully and share your gift with those in need, out of the love of Christ.
You have made us stewards over the created world, so that in all things we might honor the demands of charity.
Graciously hear our prayers, and the prayers of farmers, all who work the land and who protect your creation that your blessing may come upon all those who use these objects for their needs.
Let them always see you as the good surpassing every good and love their neighbor with upright hearts.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen

All make the sign of the cross as the leader concludes:

May God, the source of every good, bless us and give success to our work,
so that we may receive the joy of his gifts and praise his name now and for ever.
R. Amen.

The leader says: Let us bless the Lord.
All respond, making the sign of the cross: Thanks be to God.

The blessing may conclude with song – or, if in the context of Mass, continue with the order of Mass.

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FOR INFORMATION – or for more care for God’s creation resources and Laudato Si’ prayer cards, CONTACT:

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