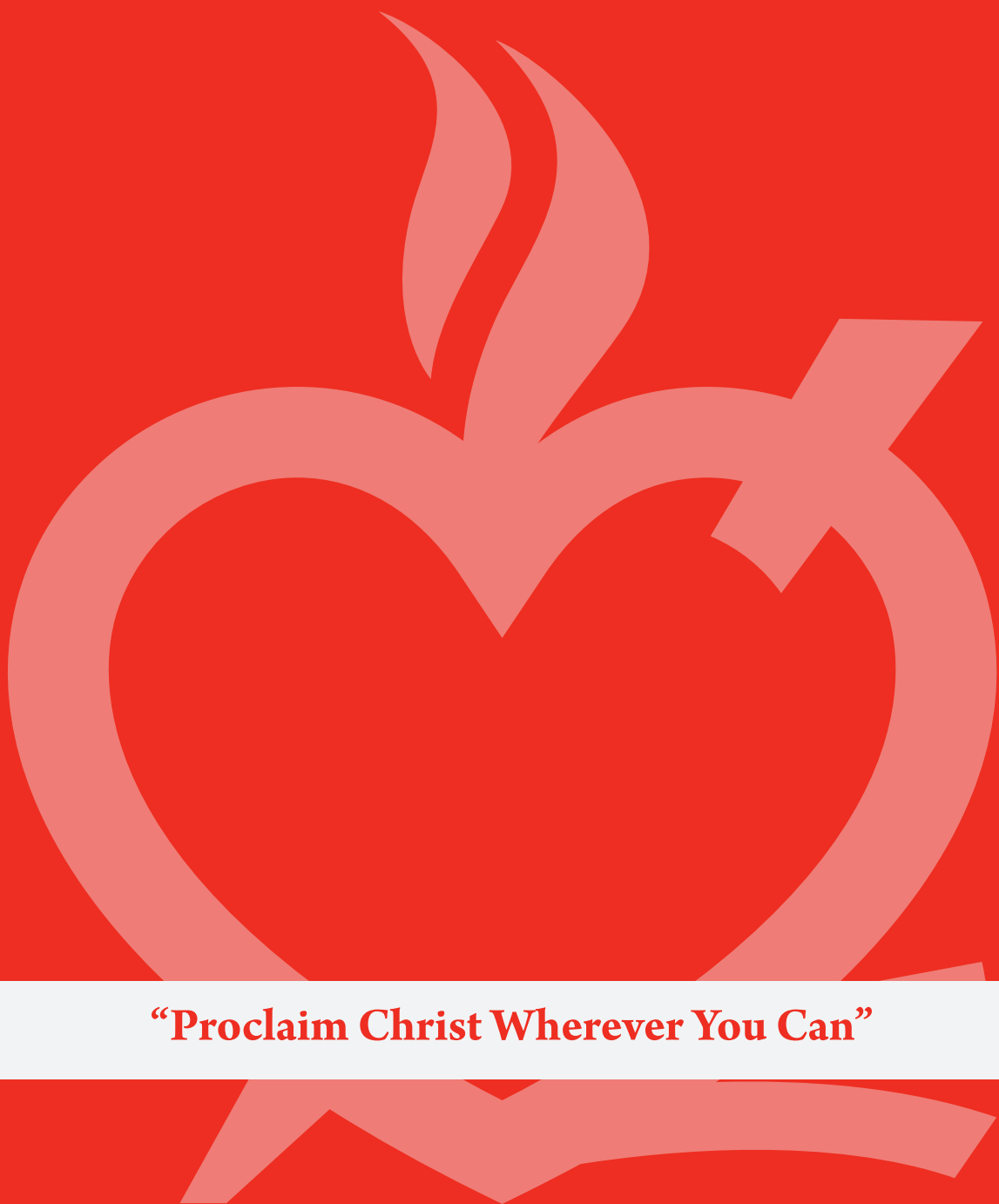


# LITURGICAL GUIDE

OPENING CELEBRATION  
OF THE MISSIONARY YEAR 2026



**“Proclaim Christ Wherever You Can”**



## LITURGICAL GUIDE

### OPENING CELEBRATION OF THE MISSIONARY YEAR 2026

“Proclaim Christ Wherever You Can”

#### PRESENTATION

Dear brothers and sisters of the Augustinian Recollect Family:

With joy we share this liturgical guide to celebrate together the Eucharist for the opening of the Missionary Year 2026, under the theme that our Father Saint Augustine gives us: “Proclaim Christ wherever you can”.

This year represents not only a theme, but a concrete invitation to evangelize, to bring Christ to everyone, at all times, from our realities and possibilities, assuming mission as an essential part of our being as Augustinian Recollects and as a loving response to God’s call.

As the Prior General reminds us in his letter: “Holiness and mission are not parallel paths, but one single path that leads to the heart of God.”

May this year be an opportunity to empty ourselves of what is unnecessary and return to Christ, to proclaim Him to everyone, from the task we perform: in the parish, in school, at university, in catechesis, at work, in the neighborhood... Perhaps the mission is right where you are.

May this Eucharist impel us to be living flames of hope, to proclaim Christ wherever we find ourselves.

#### NOTES FOR THE CELEBRATION

- This guide may be used in any community/ministry of the Augustinian Recollect Family
- It is recommended to adapt it to the local reality, adding references to the specific context of each country or community
- Missionary symbols may be added during the celebration: missionary cross, images of Recollect missionary saints, the Missionary Year logo, etc.
- It is advisable to prepare a visible space where the theme of the Missionary Year is placed



## **INTRODUCTORY RITES**

### **ENTRANCE MONITION**

Welcome, brothers and sisters!

With one soul and one heart we gather around the Eucharistic Banquet to celebrate the opening of the Missionary Year of the Order of Augustinian Recollects under the theme “Proclaim Christ wherever you can”.

The Eucharist is the source and summit of the Church’s mission. The celebration of this sacrament nourishes and strengthens us to be sent into the world, living a spirit of dedication, unity and service.

The Missionary Year wants to rekindle our spirit for Mission. Catholic Christians receive the flame of the missionary at baptism, but many of us keep it extinguished.

In this time of grace we are asked to rekindle that flame to proclaim Christ with our life, with words, with visible gestures, with details, and we are called to do this not only within the walls of the church, but in every area where we live.

The Word gives us that missionary strength; it reveals to us a path that is born from encounter, strengthened in adversity and lived with joy.

May this Eucharist impel us to be living flames of hope, to proclaim Christ wherever we are. Hand in hand with Mary, Mother of Consolation, let us go to meet her Son Jesus.

With joy, let us begin our celebration by singing.

### ***ENTRANCE SONG***



## **ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

**Psalm 104:1**

Give thanks to the Lord, invoke His name,  
make known His deeds among the peoples.

## **GREETING**

**Celebrant:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Assembly:** Amen.

**Celebrant:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of the Father and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**Assembly:** And with your spirit.

## **WORDS OF WELCOME**

*(Optional - may be proclaimed by a lay person or religious)*

Brothers and sisters:

We gather today to begin the Missionary Year 2026 in our community/parish/school [adapt according to context]. This is a time of grace that invites us to missionary conversion, to leave our comfort zones and to bring Christ beyond our borders.

We remember with gratitude all the Augustinian Recollect missionaries who have preceded us: Saint Ezequiel Moreno, Saint Magdalene of Nagasaki, the blessed martyrs of Japan, and so many others who gave their lives for the Gospel.

May this celebration be the beginning of a year of missionary renewal in our life and in our community.

## **PENITENTIAL ACT**

**Celebrant:** Brothers and sisters, to celebrate these sacred mysteries worthily, let us acknowledge our sins.

*(Brief pause of silence)*



**Celebrant:**

- Lord Jesus, who call us to be missionaries of Your love.  
Lord, have mercy. / Lord, have mercy.
- Christ Jesus, who send us to proclaim Your Gospel.  
Christ, have mercy. / Christ, have mercy.
- Lord Jesus, who strengthen us with Your Spirit for mission.  
Lord, have mercy. / Lord, have mercy.

**Celebrant:** May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

**Assembly:** Amen.

**GLORIA**

*(The Gloria is sung or recited)*  
Glory to God in the highest...

**COLLECT PRAYER**

**Celebrant:** Let us pray.  
*(Brief silence)*

O God, who sent Your Son into the world as the true light,  
pour out Your Spirit to sow the seed of truth  
in the hearts of men  
and awaken faith in them,  
so that all, reborn to new life through baptism,  
may come to form part of Your one people.  
Grant us, in this Missionary Year,  
to be witnesses of Your love in the ordinary things of life,  
missionaries who proclaim Christ wherever we can,  
with ever-renewed joy and without fear.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son,  
who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.

**Assembly:** Amen.



## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### *FIRST READING*

*First Letter of Saint Paul the Apostle to the Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23*

Woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel!

Brothers and sisters:

Preaching is not for me a source of pride. I have no choice, and woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel! If I did it of my own accord, that would be my reward. But if I do it against my will, it is because I have been entrusted with this office.

Then what is my reward? Precisely to make the Gospel known, proclaiming it freely, without using the right that preaching the Gospel gives me. For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, to win over as many as possible.

I became weak with the weak, to win over the weak; I have become all things to all, to save at least some. And I do all this for the Gospel, so that I too may share in its blessings.

The Word of the Lord.

**Assembly:** Thanks be to God.

### *RESPONSORIAL PSALM*

*Psalm 96 (95):1-2a, 2b-3, 7-8a, 10*

Proclaim His marvelous deeds to all the nations

**R/.** Proclaim His marvelous deeds to all the nations.

Sing to the Lord a new song;  
sing to the Lord, all the earth.  
Sing to the Lord, bless His name. **R/**

Announce His salvation, day after day.  
Tell His glory among the nations;  
among all peoples, His wondrous deeds. **R/**

Give to the Lord, you families of nations,  
give to the Lord glory and praise;  
give to the Lord the glory due His name. **R/**



Say among the nations: The Lord is king.  
He has made the world firm, not to be moved;  
He governs the peoples with equity. *R/*

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION***

*R/*. Alleluia, alleluia.  
Go and make disciples of all nations  
—says the Lord—;  
behold, I am with you always,  
until the end of the age.  
*R/*. Alleluia.

***GOSPEL***

***Mark 16:15-20***

Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel

***Celebrant:*** The Lord be with you.

***Assembly:*** And with your spirit.

***Celebrant:*** A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

***Assembly:*** Glory to You, O Lord.

At that time, Jesus appeared to the Eleven and said to them:

“Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; whoever does not believe will be condemned.

These signs will accompany those who believe: in My name they will drive out demons, they will speak new languages, they will pick up serpents with their hands, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not harm them. They will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

After speaking to them, the Lord Jesus was taken up into heaven and took His seat at the right hand of God. They went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the word through accompanying signs.

The Gospel of the Lord.

***Assembly:*** Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

***HOMILY***



## RITE OF OPENING THE MISSIONARY YEAR

*(After the homily, before the Creed)*

### **Celebrant:**

Brothers and sisters, we arrive at a special moment of this celebration. We are going to inaugurate in our (...) community the Missionary Year 2026 of the Order of Augustinian Recollects.

As the Prior General tells us: “This year is not simply a thematic time, but a call to missionary conversion.” It is time to rekindle the fire of love that impels us to go out, to go beyond our geographical, cultural and spiritual borders.

Holiness is not a flight from the world, but the highest form of presence. The soul in mission is the Church going forth.

(A sign, image or symbol of the Missionary Year may be placed in a visible location. If there is a missionary cross or other sign, it may be presented at this time)

### **Celebrant:**

With the boldness of the Holy Spirit and the missionary ardor of Saint Augustine, I proclaim the beginning of the Missionary Year 2026 in this (...) community, under the theme that our Father gives us:

**“PROCLAIM CHRIST WHEREVER YOU CAN”**

*(The assembly repeats the theme with strength)*

**Assembly: “PROCLAIM CHRIST WHEREVER YOU CAN”**

### **Celebrant:**

May this year be for all of us a time of grace, of missionary conversion, of evangelizing outreach.

May we renew in ourselves the passion to evangelize with ever-renewed joy.

May we be witnesses of Christ in the ordinary things of life: in our families, workplaces, schools, parishes and communities.

May we not remain in lukewarmness, in routine, in spiritual worldliness, but may the Spirit give us creativity, closeness and simplicity for mission.

May we be missionaries who do not seek themselves, but who offer themselves, with overflowing hearts that listen, love and live what they proclaim.

May Mary, Mother of Consolation and first missionary, accompany us along the paths of the world, carrying Christ in our hearts.

May Saint Augustine grant us his passion for truth and his ardor for the Church.



May Saint Ezequiel Moreno and all our Recollect saints and martyrs intercede for us, so that we may build missionary communities and live this Missionary Year with boldness, joy and holiness.

**Assembly:** Amen.

*(A bell may be rung, applause, an appropriate acclamation sung, or a missionary candle/lamp lit)*

### **PROFESSION OF FAITH**

*(The Creed is sung or recited)*

I believe in one God...

### **PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

**Celebrant:**

Brothers and sisters, with confidence let us raise our prayer to the Father, who sends us to be witnesses of His love.

To each petition we will respond:

**R/.** Through the intercession of Saint Ezequiel Moreno, hear us, O Lord.

1. For Pope Leo XIV, for our Prior General and all the authorities of the Order, for Augustinian Recollect religious men and women throughout the world, that they may persevere faithfully in proclaiming the Gospel. **Let us pray to the Lord.**

2. For the leaders of all peoples and nations, that, filled with the Holy Spirit, they may govern with wisdom and promote the justice and peace that come from Christ. **Let us pray to the Lord.**

3. For all our missionaries and for those of us celebrating this Eucharist, that, guided by the example of Saint Ezequiel Moreno and all our missionary saints, we may proclaim the Gospel boldly wherever we are. **Let us pray to the Lord.**

4. For the entire Augustinian Recollect Family: religious men and women and laity, that, with renewed hope, we may make our daily tasks spaces of mission where grace may become fruitful. **Let us pray to the Lord.**

5. For young people seeking their vocation, that the Lord may grant them the light of the Spirit and the courage to respond generously to His missionary call. **Let us pray to the Lord.**



6. For an increase in priestly, religious and missionary vocations in our Order, that the Lord may grant us the grace to be faithful witnesses who proclaim the Gospel. **Let us pray to the Lord.**

7. For deceased Augustinian Recollect missionaries, especially those who gave their lives in the missions, grant them, Lord, the glory of resurrection. **Let us pray to the Lord.**

*(Local community intentions may be added)*

**Celebrant:**

Merciful Father, hear the prayers of Your people and grant us to be faithful witnesses of Your love in the world. Through Christ our Lord.

**Assembly:** Amen.

## LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

### **PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS**

Monition:

We present to the Lord the bread and wine that will be transformed into the Body and Blood of Christ. With them, we also present our life, our renewed missionary commitment, our sincere desire to proclaim Christ wherever we can.

As the Prior General reminds us: “To proclaim Christ is to proclaim Love. And love, when it is true, expands, communicates, spreads.”

We present our desire to be missionaries who do not seek themselves, but who offer themselves. We present our personal peripheries, our fears, our comfort zones, so that the Spirit may transform us into bold apostles.

*(During the presentation of gifts, missionary symbols may be carried: a cross, a Bible, images of Recollect missionary saints, elements representing the missions of the Order, the Missionary Year logo, etc.)*

### **PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

**Celebrant:** Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

**Assembly:** May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of His name, for our good and the good of all His holy Church.



**Celebrant:**

Lord, pour out Your blessing from heaven  
upon the gifts we present to You  
in memory of Saint Ezequiel and all our missionaries,  
so that, strengthened by them,  
we may obtain forgiveness of our sins  
and the abundance of the goods of heaven.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**Assembly:** Amen.

***EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER***

*(Any Eucharistic Prayer may be used. Eucharistic Prayer for Various Needs IV “Jesus, the Way to the Father” or Eucharistic Prayer II is especially suggested)*

***COMMUNION ANTIPHON***

*cf. Luke 10:1, 9*

The Lord sent out the disciples to proclaim to the peoples:  
The kingdom of God is near you.  
*(An appropriate song may be sung during Communion)*

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION***

**Celebrant:** Let us pray.  
*(Brief silence)*

Strengthened, O Lord,  
by the banquet of our redemption,  
we ask that through this help of eternal salvation  
true faith may grow unceasingly in the world  
and workers for Your harvest may multiply.  
Grant us to live this Missionary Year  
with boldness, joy and holiness.  
Give us creativity, closeness and simplicity  
to be witnesses of Your love  
in the ordinary things of life,  
in our families, workplaces and communities,



in all the places where You send us.  
May we be missionaries who proclaim Your Gospel,  
builders of love and justice,  
bringing Your living hope to the heart of the world.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**Assembly:** Amen.

### ***SOLEMN MISSIONARY BLESSING***

**Celebrant:** The Lord be with you.

Assembly: And with your spirit.

**Celebrant:** Bow down for the blessing.

**Celebrant:**

May God, who through His Son  
sent the word of salvation into the world,  
fill you with His blessings.

**Assembly:** Amen.

May Christ, who sent you into the world  
to preach His Gospel,  
strengthen you with the power of His Spirit.

**Assembly:** Amen.

May the Holy Spirit,  
who gathered the peoples in the confession of one faith,  
grant you perseverance in bearing witness to the truth.

**Assembly:** Amen.

And may the blessing of almighty God,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
descend upon you.

**Assembly:** Amen.

### ***MISSIONARY DISMISSAL***

**Celebrant:**

Brothers and sisters, we have inaugurated the Missionary Year.  
We have been nourished by Christ in the Eucharist.



Now we are sent to be Eucharist for the world.

Let us remember the words of Pope Francis that the Prior General shares with us:

“I prefer a Church which is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a Church which is unhealthy from being confined.”

May our life be a living proclamation of the Gospel.

May our words and actions bring Christ to the world.

May we not be afraid to go out, to make mistakes if we do so out of love.

The four missionary attitudes accompany us: go out, welcome, console, accompany.

Proclaim Christ wherever you can!

(Brief pause)

Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

**Assembly:** Thanks be to God.

## **AFTER THE CELEBRATION**

### ***PRAYER FOR THE AUGUSTINIAN RECOLLECT MISSIONARY YEAR***

*(This prayer will be prayed throughout the 2025-2026 Missionary Year at celebrations of the Augustinian Recollect Family. It is recommended to pray it at the end of Masses, community meetings, classes in schools, and fraternity gatherings)*

Lord Jesus Christ,  
who sent Your Church to be the light of the world,  
renew in us, the Augustinian Recollect community,  
the passion to evangelize with ever-renewed joy.  
From You, Lord Jesus, we want to be Your witnesses  
in the ordinary things of life,  
missionaries who proclaim the truth,  
builders of love and justice.  
United in community,  
we want to bring Your living hope  
to our families, workplaces and parishes.  
Give us, Lord,  
creativity, closeness and simplicity,  
overflowing hearts  
that listen, love and live what they proclaim;  
and in each dawning day,  
a new opportunity  
for the mission You have entrusted to us.



Mary, Mother of Consolation,  
just as you followed your Son,  
accompany us along the paths of the world.  
Saint Augustine, Saint Ezequiel Moreno and Recollect saints,  
intercede before God for us  
so that we may build missionary communities,  
an ever-renewed Church  
that proclaims His Kingdom  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.

### **COMPLEMENTARY SUGGESTIONS**

- Prepare a space with photos of the Order's missions
- Invite a missionary to give a brief testimony after Communion
- Prepare cards with the theme and prayer of the missionary year to distribute
- Carry out a procession with missionary symbols during the Eucharist(s)
- Fraternal gathering to share missionary commitment
- Exhibition about the missions of the Order
- Registration of personal missionary commitments
- Blessing and distribution of missionary crucifixes to the laity, pastoral agents and mission workers
- Banner or poster with the theme "Proclaim Christ wherever you can"
- Images of Saint Ezequiel Moreno and other Recollect missionary saints
- Map with the missions of the Order in the world
- Candles or lamps symbolizing missionary light



# ORDER OF AUGUSTINIAN RECOLLECTS

**“Proclaim Christ Wherever You Can”**