

Prayer for Priests
St. Therese of Lisieux

O my most sweet Jesus, O Jesus, Eternal High Priest, keep Your priests in the shelter of Your Sacred Heart, where no one can hurt them. Keep their anointed hands unsullied, which daily handle Your Sacred Body. Keep pure the lips, which are reddened with Your Precious Blood. Keep pure and unworldly their hearts, which are sealed with the sublime token of Your glorious priesthood. Cause them to grow in love and loyalty to You, and protect them from the contamination of the world. With their power of transforming bread and wine, give them the power of transforming hearts. Bless their work with rich fruit, and grant them one day the crown of eternal life. Amen.

About the artwork:

Front cover: *Virgin of Mercy*

Inside cover: *St. Francis of Assisi Embracing the Crucified Christ* by Bartolome Esteban Murillo



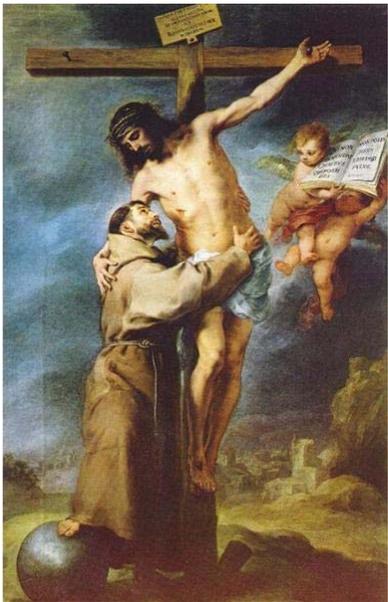
**SPIRITUAL
MOTHERHOOD 2016**

Spiritual Motherhood for Priests

"The vocation to be a spiritual mother for priests is largely unknown, scarcely understood and, consequently, rarely lived, notwithstanding its fundamental importance. It is a vocation that is frequently hidden, invisible to the naked eye, but meant to transmit spiritual life." - *Congregation Pro Clericis*

Commitment:

I commit to offering prayers, good works, sufferings, and penances for the *priest/seminarian/one God is calling to priesthood* of our diocese known by God, throughout the coming year, until September 8, 2017. These prayers and works are offered to Jesus Christ the Eternal High Priest that He may sanctify them and form them in accordance with His Heart that they may be preserved in purity and holiness of life. May these prayers and works inspire an authentic renewal of priestly life, bear abundant fruit in the priest's pastoral ministry and bring about an increase of vocations to priesthood in our diocese.



Some suggestions for prayer:

- Prayer for Priests
- Rosary
- Holy Hour
- Mass intention
- Chaplet of Divine Mercy
- Friday and/or Wednesday fast on bread and water
- Morning offering for Priests
- Self-offering for Priests

Morning Offering Prayer for Priests

Father most holy,

I offer you the prayers, works, joys, and sufferings of this day
by placing them in the holy and venerable hands
of Jesus, the Eternal High Priest
and by saying, as he did upon entering the world,
"Behold, I come to do Your will".

For the sake of your priest in most need,
I entreat your beloved Son to unite my offering to the Sacrifice of the Cross,
renewed upon the altars of Your Church
from the rising of the sun to its setting.

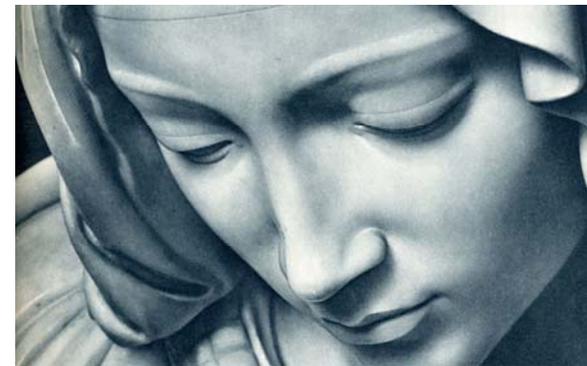
Most merciful Father,

look upon this man chosen by Your son
to show forth his death until he comes.

Keep him from the Evil one
and sanctify him in the truth.

Bind him by a most tender lover
to the Virgin Mary, his Mother
that, by her intercession,

he may be overshadowed by the power of the Holy Spirit
in every act of his sacred ministry;
thus may his priesthood reveal
the Face of Jesus and the merciful love of His Heart,
for the fruitfulness of his spouse, the Church,
and the praise of Your glory. Amen.



Prayer to the Virgin Mary for Priests- St. John Paul II

O Mary,
Mother of Jesus Christ and Mother of priests,
accept this title which we bestow on you
to celebrate your motherhood
and to contemplate with you the priesthood
of, your Son and of your sons,
O holy Mother of God.

O Mother of Christ,
to the Messiah-priest you gave a body of flesh
through the anointing of the Holy Spirit
for the salvation of the poor and the contrite of heart;
guard priests in your heart and in the Church,
O Mother of the Savior.

O Mother of Faith,
you accompanied to the Temple the Son of Man,
the fulfillment of the promises given to the fathers;
give to the Father for his glory
the priests of your Son,
O Ark of the Covenant.

O Mother of the Church,
in the midst of the disciples in the upper room
you prayed to the Spirit
for the new people and their shepherds;
obtain for the Order of Presbyters
a full measure of gifts,
O Queen of the Apostles.

O Mother of Jesus Christ,
you were with him at the beginning
of his life and mission,
you sought the Master among the crowd,
you stood beside him when he was lifted up from the earth
consumed as the one eternal sacrifice,
and you had John, your son, near at hand;
accept from the beginning those who have been called,
protect their growth,
in their life ministry accompany your sons,
O Mother of Priests.
Amen.

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O Mother of Priests.
Amen.

Self-Offering: Intercession for Priests

Heavenly Father, I, a poor servant, ask that I may glorify You in the offering of my daily prayers and sacrifices for the sanctification of priests. I am inspired by the glorious witness of saints who went before me on the royal road of spiritual motherhood and fatherhood. I unite my offering to all the spiritual mothers and fathers of priests throughout the history of the Church. I pray that I may imitate their fidelity and fruitfulness in the handing down of the Faith to future generations. Eternal Father, graciously keep my heart set on this foremost intention of praying and sacrificing for holy priests that they may be victorious over the world, the flesh, and the devil. United with Jesus, I offer myself as an intercessor for priests in purgatory and for priests serving the Church now and in the future. I beseech you to grant all priests and seminarians every necessary grace to persevere in their ongoing formation and interior transformation. When the priest holds the Sacred Host in his hands at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, grant that he may experience the love of the Most Holy Trinity enveloping him and be strengthened. Heavenly Father, every time I see the priest elevating Your Son Jesus in the Eucharist, I renew and ratify my self-offering for priests. It is my ardent and constant desire that You be glorified through the holiness of your priests. I confide my self-offering prayer to You through the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us.

Mary, Mother of Priests, pray for us.

St. John Vianney, pray for us.

St. Philomena, pray for us.

St. Therese of Lisieux, pray for us.

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