



Novena For Priesthood Sunday/World Priest Day Worldwide Marriage Encounter on Long Island



World Priest Day (WPD) is a celebration and affirmation of the men who commit their lives to the Lord and the Church via the Sacrament of Holy Orders. It is an opportunity for Catholic Parishioners to thank, affirm and share their love and support for our priests.

HISTORY - The first World Priest Day was celebrated on the third Sunday in September 2000. The event grew from an idea in September of 1998, when the Worldwide Marriage Encounter community in the Diocese of Knoxville, TN decided to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the diocese by honoring all of their priests. The bishop & priests were so appreciative that the leaders of the local M.E. community shared the idea with the leaders of other communities in the Southeastern U.S. Some of those communities adopted the idea in 1999, and had such a positive experience that they brought the idea to the U S Secretariat leadership board. One year later, Worldwide Marriage Encounter officially established the third Sunday of September as World Priest Day.

During the nearly 50 years that Marriage Encounter has existed in the U.S., one of its gifts has been the wonderful relationships that have grown between countless couples and priests. This idea for honoring our priests came from the love and respect that has grown from those relationships. It predated the recent Church scandals, but we believe that building stronger relationships between priests and their people can rebuild our Church! We are together on our faith journey.

In 2003 WWME reached out to the full Church and invited other lay groups to join in the celebration of affirming the men who faithfully serve as our beloved priests. In June of 2006, WWME changed the day of World Priest Day to the 4th Sunday in October to coincide with the Serra Club's celebration of Priesthood Sunday. This became effective in 2007.

Priesthood is a special calling and absolutely central to the life of the Church. Let us honor our Priests for their sacrifices, their presence in our lives, and most of all their service to the church.

To live in the midst of the world without wishing its pleasures; To be a member of each family, yet belonging to none; To share all suffering; to penetrate all secrets; To heal all wounds; to go from men to God and offer Him their prayers; To return from God to men to bring pardon and hope; To have a heart of fire for Charity, and a heart of bronze for Chastity To teach and to pardon, console and bless always. My God, what a life; and it is yours, O priest of Jesus Christ. -
-Father Jean-Baptiste Lacordaire

Join us as we pray these next nine days in thanksgiving for our Priests



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DAY ONE

“The end for which God has instituted the priesthood has been to appoint on earth public persons to watch over the honor of his divine majesty, and to procure the salvation of souls.” – St. Alphonsus Liguori

Today let us pray that our beloved Priests continue to have the strength and courage to honor our God and for all souls to be saved.

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Hail Mary full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end, Amen.

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DAY TWO

“He made them, the vicars of his love.” – St. Ambrose

Today let us pray that our beloved Priests to continue to have a strong representation of God’s Love

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DAY THREE

“What tongue, human or angelic, may ever describe a power so immeasurable as that exercised by the simplest priest in Mass? Who could ever have imagined that the voice of man, which by nature hath not the power even to raise a straw from the ground, should obtain through grace a power so stupendous as to bring from Heaven to earth the Son of God?” – St. Leonard of Port Maurice

Today we give thanks for our Priests’ voice. May they continue to guide us with their words.

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

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DAY FOUR

“O my child, bethink you that just as the bee, having gathered heaven's dew and earth's sweetest juices from amid the flowers, carries it to her hive; so the Priest, having taken the Savior, God's Own Son, Who came down from Heaven, the Son of Mary, Who sprang up as earth's choicest flower, from the Altar, feeds you with that Bread of Sweetness and of all delight.” – St. Francis de Sales

Today we give thanks to our Priests for feeding us with the Bread of Sweetness. May they too be fed by the people of God.

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

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DAY FIVE

“The priesthood is the love of the heart of Jesus. When you see a priest, think of our Lord Jesus Christ.” – St. John Vianney, patron saint of parish priests

Today we give thanks to our priests, for the love which comes from their hearts. May they always reflect Christ’s love for his church.

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

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DAY SIX

“For when you see the Lord sacrificed, and laid upon the altar, and the priest standing and praying over the victim, and all the worshippers empurpled with that precious blood, can you then think that you are still among men, and standing upon the earth? Are you not, on the contrary, straightway translated to Heaven, and casting out every carnal thought from the soul, do you not with disembodied spirit and pure reason contemplate the things which are in Heaven?” – St. John Chrysostom

Today we give thanks to our priests for the sacrifices they make. May they see the Glory of the Lord.

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

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DAY SEVEN

"People who say that we priests are lonely are either lying or have got it all wrong. We are far less lonely than anyone else, for we can count on the constant company of the Lord, with whom we should be conversing without interruption. We are in love with Love, with the Author of Love!" – St. Josemaria Escriva

Today we give thanks to our Priests, may they know our love and support in their ministry.

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

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DAY EIGHT

“Love is the most necessary of all virtues. Love in the person who preaches the word of God is like fire in a musket. If a person were to throw a bullet with his hands, he would hardly make a dent in anything; but if the person takes the same bullet and ignites some gunpowder behind it, it can kill. It is much the same with the word of God. If it is spoken by someone who is filled with the fire of charity- the fire of love of God and neighbor- it will work wonders.” --St. Anthony Mary Claret

Today we give thanks for our Priests, may they be filled with the virtue of Charity.

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

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DAY NINE

“Christ be with me, Christ within me, Christ behind me, Christ before me, Christ beside me, Christ to win me, Christ to comfort me and restore me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ in quiet, Christ in danger, Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.” --St. Patrick

Today we give thanks to our priests, may they always be they face of Jesus to all who they encounter.

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

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World Priest Day/Priesthood Sunday Final Prayer

Today we pray that our priest be fill with every grace and blessing.

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and Of the Holy Spirit...

Divine Grace, which always heals that which is infirm and supplies that which is lacking has called our beloved brothers to sacred ministry. Let us pray that they be confirmed and strengthened with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Fill them with grace and counsel, that they may love you with all their hearts, all their minds, and all their strength. Grant them irreproachable conduct, steadfast faith, and good works so that they may help and guide your people with unselfish motivation. Grant them wisdom, let their minds be sober and watchful, so that they may be filled with works of healing and words of instruction. May they teach your people in meekness and serve you in holiness with a undivided mind and a willing soul. May they be the light of your only begotten Son that the word of your gospel may be spread and your name may be glorified in every creature. May they serve at your holy altar with pure hearts and good conscious. Grant that they may prosper in all your commandments and the keeping of your laws, so that they may be able to minister joyfully on the day of your coming. We ask this in Jesus's Name.

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, AMEN.