

Prayer Service for Priests We Know

Use this complete prayer service with the Chapter 6, section 3 of Your Christian Vocation. You may also choose to use only individual parts of the prayer service.

Needs:

- copies as needed or projection

Prayer Introduction

Leader: Answering the vocation to the priesthood comes with tremendous blessings: celebrating the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, walking with people during times of great joy and sorrow, preaching and teaching. It can be immensely joyful to accompany and lead God's people as a priest. Being a priest also can be a difficult and lonely vocation at times. If you think on your own life, a priest has been present at some of the most important times of your life. Today you will be praying especially for those priests who have been a part of your life: the priest who baptized you, gave you your First Holy Communion, was present at your Confirmation, the priest at your parish and school. All of these priests need our prayers and support.

Opening Prayer

Leader: (Have students stand and begin with the Sign of the Cross.) God our Father, for love of your Son, who is the eternal High Priest, hear our prayers for those priests in our lives. Remember that they are human and strive against sin. Stir up in them the grace of their vocation, so that they may never do anything unworthy of their calling.

Scripture Reading

Reader 1: A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John (John 1: 35-42),

The next day John was there again with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said, "Behold, the Lamb of God." The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus. Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where

are you staying?" He said to them, "Come, and you will see." So they went and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day. It was about four in the afternoon. Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, was one of the two who heard John and followed Jesus. He first found his own brother Simon and told him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). Then he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John; you will be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Intercessions

Leader: O Jesus, our eternal High Priest, I pray:

All: for your faithful and fervent priests;

For your unfaithful and tepid priests;

For your priests laboring at home or abroad in distant mission fields;

For your tempted priests;

For your young priests;

For your dying priests;

For the souls of your priests in Purgatory.

Leader: But above all, I commend to you:

The priests dearest to me;

The priests who baptized me;

The priests who absolved me from my sins;

The priests at whose Masses I assist;

The priests who taught and instructed me about you and your Holy Scriptures;

The priests who helped and encouraged me to accept you as my Lord;

And all the priests whom you sent to touch my life and those of my loved ones.

Leader: Let us pray for:

Leader:

The Holy Father

Cardinals, Archbishops, and Bishops

Diocesan Priests

Priests in seminary work

Priests in hospital work

Priests who are ill

Priests in danger

Priests who are weak

Priests who are poor

Priests who are zealous

Priests who want to love you

Priests who are sad

Priests who are worried

Priests who are old

Priests who are young

Priests who are alone

Missionary priests

Priests who are preachers

Priests who direct souls

Parish priests

All:

fill him with your grace, Lord

give them your gifts, Lord

never leave them, Lord

give them your wisdom, Lord

give them constancy, Lord

heal them, Lord

deliver them, Lord

strengthen them, Lord

relieve them, Lord

help them, Lord

enkindle their hearts, Lord

console them, Lord

give them peace, Lord

sustain them, Lord

impel them for your glory, Lord

accompany them, Lord

protect them, Lord

enlighten them, Lord

instruct them, Lord

make them perfect, Lord

Priests and religious who have died

bring them to Glory, Lord

Reader 2: For all Priests:

Give them your wisdom, Lord. — Give them virtues. — Give them patience and charity. — Give them obedience and kindness. — Give them a burning zeal for souls. — Give them an intense love for the Eucharist. — Give them loyalty to the Pope and their Bishops. — Give them respect for their dignity. — Give them a great love for Mary. — Give them rectitude for justice. — Give them the gift of counsel. — Give them strength in their labors. — Give them peace in their sufferings. — Give them humility and generosity. — Let them be the light of souls. — Let them be the salt of the earth. — Let them practice sacrifice and self denial. — Let them be other Christs. — Let them be holy in body and soul. — May they be men of prayer. — May they be faithful to their priestly vocation. — May their hands know only how to bless. — May all their steps be for the glory of God. — May the Holy Spirit possess them, and give them his gifts and fruits in abundance.

Leader: Let us pray,

All: O God, Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit. You are the soul and the life of the Church. Hear the prayers we offer for those priests who have been and are a part of our lives. May our prayers sustain and strengthen them to do your work. We ask this in your name. Amen.