

Join the

*Franciscans in
giving this gift to
our priests in the
Year for Priests.*



LITANY FOR PRIESTS

Jesus, you emptied yourself for our sake,
fill our priests with your spirit of selfless love.
Jesus, you became poor for our sake,
enrich our priests with your spirit of generosity.
Jesus, you are the Word made flesh,
give our priests strength and energy to preach your
Good News.

Jesus, you sought out the sick and rejected,
touch our priests with your healing power.
Jesus, you always trusted in the Father,
help our priests to trust in your promises.
Jesus, you were strong in the face of temptation
and dejection,
support our priests in times of trial.

Jesus, you became the servant of all,
strengthen our priests for your service.
Jesus, you feed us with your body and blood,
nourish our priests with your compassionate
concern for all.

Jesus, you died for us so that we may be free,
grant our priests the ability to bring that freedom
to all people.

Jesus, you rose to glory and conquered death,
enliven our priests as messengers of hope to all.
Jesus, you are the image of the unseen God,
show your face to our priests.

Bless and care for our priests,
give them joy and peace in their service,
love for you and all your people,
confidence in your loving kindness, and
an ability to recover from their mistakes.
May the Holy Spirit give them renewed energy and
a creative impulse to proclaim the Good News to the
ends of the earth. Amen.

Mary, mother of us all, watch over all your
children, especially our priests.

St. John Marie Vianney, patron of priests,
protect our priests with your constant intercession.



St. Francis of Assisi



Pope Benedict designated June 19, 2009, the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus as the beginning of a Year for Priests. He is doing this in conjunction with the 150th anniversary of the death of St. John Vianney, a patron of priests. St. John Vianney was a member of the Secular Franciscans. Praying for priests and asking God to bless them and strengthen them in their ministry is something dear to the Franciscans. St. Francis Speaks of priests in his Testament:

God inspires me, too, and still inspires me with such great faith in priests who live according to the laws of the Holy Church of Rome, because of their dignity, that if they persecuted me, I should be ready to turn to them for aid. And if I were as wise as Solomon and met the poorest priests of the world, I would still refuse to preach against their will in parishes where they live. I am determined to reverence, love and honor priests and others as my superiors. I refuse to consider their sins, because I can see the Son of God in them and they are better than I. I do this because in this world I cannot see the most high Son of God with my own eyes, except for his most holy Body and Blood which they receive and administer to others.

We, Franciscans, hear these words often as part of our prayer and reflection on the writings of St. Francis. In Holy Name Province, ministry to priests has been an important part of our service from the beginning. We have helped to establish a seminary for the training of priests and many of the friars have worked there and in other seminaries in administration, teaching and formation. In our retreat ministry, we have always provided spiritual support and guidance to priests all over the world. Many friars are also spiritual directors and mentors to priests. Providing help to priests in parishes and other institutions for Masses, confessions, other sacramental and nonsacramental ministries happens every day.

These last years have not been easy for priests or the rest of the Church. Pope Benedict thought that all of us could use a year that was set aside for priests to pray for them, give them an opportunity for renewal and encourage more people to answer the call to ministry. We, Franciscans, offer this prayer for priests as something all of us can do to share in the Year for Priests. Join us, we can all do a lot of good with our prayer.



HOLY NAME PROVINCE

Office of Development

The Franciscans • St. Anthony's Guild

4 Jersey Street

East Rutherford, NJ 07073-1012

1-800-848-4538 • www.anthonian.org

The Franciscan Missionary Union

135 West 31st Street

New York, NY 10001-3439

1-888-372-6478 • www.hnp.org/fmu

Copyright © 2009

With ecclesiastical approval

Cover Art: Marek Czarnecki, Seraphic Restorations