

How to Celebrate the Year for Priests

June 19, 2009 – June 19, 2010

Give Support:

Pray for Priests. The Diocese will provide a calendar for three months at a time with five priests listed every week. Include each list in the bulletin, asking the entire parish to pray for the priests of the Diocese.

Gain the indulgence for the Year of the Priests. See the Sacred Worship page.

Ask the priest individually what you could do to honor the priesthood.

Arrange for a Holy Hour each Thursday to pray for priests and to intercede for vocations to the priesthood.

Support Vocations:

Foster vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Invite a priest to share his story of how God called him to the priesthood and to describe his life of service.

Invite young men to consider the priesthood.

Arrange for a parish-wide pilgrimage to a seminary.

Focus on the vital role of priests:

Read about the vital role of priests in the life of the Church. There will be a series of articles on the priesthood distributed by the Office of Catechesis and Evangelization.

Invite your priest to bless your house. Have him stay for dinner to thank him for all the ways that he has served you and your family. Consecrate your home to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Contact the Office of Sacred Worship for information and details (608) 791-2674.

Study the life of St. John Vianney, the Curé of Ars, who has been named the patron saint of the world's priests.

Invite families to take time after dinner each evening to read the life of a priest - saint.

Help the priest tend his parish:

Set aside more time for daily prayer, especially with the family gathered together.

Frequent the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Holy Eucharist. It brings priests great joy to see us participate in the Sacraments. Priests know that the grace received in the Sacraments deepen our relationship with Christ strengthen us spiritually.

Ask for the grace to grow in your love for Christ, especially by focusing on the love of His Sacred Heart.

Participate in a Bible Study or Prayer Group and invite someone else to go with you.

Show Appreciation:

Develop a list of ways that people of the parish may help the priest.

Write a note of gratitude to priests you know with your children's participation by coloring a picture etc. Shake the priest's hand after Mass and thank him for his vocation.

In a devotional area, set up pictures of priests who served and significantly impacted the parish.

Help to organize a deanery gathering where all the priests concelebrate and to which the faithful are invited.

For further information

Visit the USCCB website for the Sacred Art to celebrate the Year for Priests. Go to www.usccb.org, click on Year for Priests.

Check www.dioceseoflacrosse.com periodically for updates on various initiatives and ideas for the Year for Priests.