

Suggested Prayers for Making a Holy Hour for Priestly Vocations in honor of Pope Benedict XVI's 60th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood.

Prayer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

O most holy heart of Jesus, fountain of every blessing, I adore you, I love you, and with lively sorrow for my sins I offer you this poor heart of mine. Make me humble, patient, pure and wholly obedient to your will. Grant, Good Jesus, that I may live in you and for you. Protect me in the midst of danger. Comfort me in my afflictions. Give me health of body, assistance in my temporal needs, your blessing on all that I do, and the grace of a holy death. Amen.

Prayer for the Intercession of St. John Vianney, patron of all priests

O, Most Gracious God, in this year of the priesthood, we ask you to hear our prayers presented to you by our patron saint, John Vianney, the Cure of Ars. St. John Vianney had great love for you and for your people as well as zeal for the Church. We ask you to bless vocations to the priesthood and religious life and to bless our families and friends. Fix in us the same love and zeal St. John Vianney had, and keep us always close to you, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scripture Meditation – John 21:15-19

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter. 'Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these? He said to him, 'Yes, Lord you know that I love you.' He said to him 'Feed my Lambs.' He then said to him a second time, 'Simon son of John do you love me?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord you know that I love you.' He said to him, 'Tend my sheep.' He said to him a third time, 'Simon, son of John do you love me?' Peter was distressed that he had said to him a third time, 'Do you love me?' and he said to him, 'Lord you know everything. You know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my sheep. Amen, amen I say to you, when you were younger you used to dress yourself and go where you wanted, but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.' He said this signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God. And when he had said this, he said to him, 'Follow me.'

Prayer for Priests

Dear Lord, we pray that the Blessed Mother wrap her mantle around your priests and through her intercession strengthen them for their ministry. We pray that Mary will guide your priests to follow her own words, 'Do whatever He tells you.' (Jn 2:5). May your priests have the heart of St. Joseph, Mary's most chaste spouse. May the Blessed Mother's own pierced heart inspire them to embrace all who suffer at the foot of the cross. May your priests be holy, filled with the fire of your love, seeking nothing but your greater glory, and the salvation of souls. Amen.

Please consider saying a rosary for the intention of new priestly vocations.

St. Therese of Lisieux's Prayer for Priests

O Jesus, I pray 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 lonely and desolate priests, for your young priests, for your dying priests, for the souls of your priests in Purgatory, but above all, I recommend to you the priests dearest to me: the priest who baptized me, the priests who absolved me from my sins; the priests at whose Masses I assisted and who gave me Your Body and Blood in Holy Communion, the priests who taught and instructed me, all the priests to whom I am indebted in any other way. O Jesus, keep them all close to your heart, and bless them abundantly in time and in eternity. Amen.

Vocation Prayer of newly Blessed John Henry Cardinal Newman

God has created me to do him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which he has not committed to another. I have my mission. I may never know it in this life but I shall be told it in the next. I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. He has not created me for naught. Therefore I will trust Him, whatever I am, He does nothing in vain. He knows what He is about.

Prayer for the Miraculous Intercession of Newly Blessed John Paul II

O Blessed Trinity, we thank you for having graced the Church with Pope John Paul II and for allowing the tenderness of your Fatherly care, the glory of the cross of Christ, and the splendor of the Holy Spirit, to shine through him. Trusting fully in your infinite mercy and in the maternal intercession of Mary, he has given us a living image of Jesus the Good Shepherd, and has shown us that holiness is the necessary measure of ordinary Christian life and is the way of achieving eternal communion with you. Grant us, by his intercession, and according to your will, the grace we implore (**voice your personal intention**) hoping that he will soon be numbered among your saints. Amen.

Archdiocesan Prayer for Vocations

Heavenly Father, with a deep trust in the love that flows from the heart of your Son, and by the gifts of your Holy Spirit, give to the seminarians, novices and all young people of this Archdiocese the courage to respond generously when you call them to the priesthood and religious life. Give them strong examples of holy priests and religious, and may they be helped by the intercession of the saints, and by our prayers, to pattern their lives after Mary, who was not afraid to let it be done to her according to your Word. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer in Thanksgiving for Pope Benedict XVI's 60 years of priesthood

Lord Jesus we come into your Eucharistic presence to thank you for the life and priestly vocation of Pope Benedict XVI. Bless him and his ministry as your Vicar and the Successor of St. Peter. Sanctify all your priests and configure them to your Sacred and Priestly Heart. Give to your Church new and holy priests, who will imitate your divine love and shepherd your people with care. You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.