



PRESENTS

HONORING THE PRIESTHOOD

A Special Event for Parishes and Schools

EVENT AGENDA

This is a suggested format *only*. Feel free to alter times and content to fit the needs of your parish. This is an event designed to educate about the priesthood, to honor priests, to encourage prayer for priests, and to offer supplemental products on the priesthood.

TIME	PROGRAM	NOTES
1. 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.		Physical setup of the room and equipment.
2. 6:30 – 7:00 p.m.	Guests arrive	
3. 7:10 p.m.	Ask everyone to take their seats	
4. 7:15 p.m. – 7:25	Welcome and introductions	<p>“I would like to welcome everyone to this special HONORING THE PRIESTHOOD event. My name is _____. <i>(You can also introduce any committee members involved, etc.)</i>”</p> <p><i>Spend 2-3 minutes introducing your program. The following can be used:</i></p> <p>“Oftentimes we fail to reflect on or even to recognize the incredible awesomeness of the priesthood. This was not the case for the Cure of Ars, the holy St. John Mary Vianney.</p> <p>““O, how great is the priest! ... If he realized what he is, he would die. ... God obeys him: he utters a few words and the Lord descends from heaven at his voice, to be contained within a small host’.</p> <p>‘Without the Sacrament of Holy Orders, we would not have the Lord. Who put Him there in that tabernacle? The priest. Who welcomed your soul at the beginning of your life? The priest. Who feeds your soul and gives it strength for its journey? The priest. Who will prepare it to appear before God, bathing it one last time in the blood of Jesus Christ? The priest, always the priest. And if this soul should happen to die [as a result of sin], who will raise it up, who will restore its calm and peace? Again, the priest. ... After God, the priest is everything! ... Only in heaven will he fully realize what he is’.</p> <p>“These beautiful words describing the priest came from St. John Mary Vianney, proclaimed by Pope Benedict XVI as the Universal Patron of Priests.</p>

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		<p>“This evening we have with us some very special priests and it is my privilege and honor to introduce them to you.” Introduce your pastor and any other priests attending the event: “We are pleased to welcome our own pastor, Father _____ as well as our associate pastor, Father _____ and visiting priests, Father _____, and Father _____.</p> <p><i>SUGGESTION: At this time you may wish to present a small token of thanks to your pastor, associate pastor and/or other attending priests. Any of the adult materials in the Ignatius Press product package would make an excellent gift for a priest: “And while I have you up here, on behalf of the parish (or school), I would like to present you with a small token of our great appreciation.</i></p>
5. 7:25 p.m.	Ask one of the priests to continue the evening with prayer.	“And now I would like to invite Father _____ to continue this very special evening with prayer. <i>Have the priest come forward to offer the prayer. (Suggestion – you can use the included Holy Cards and have him lead the Prayer for Priests on the back of the card. If he would like to offer his own prayer, you might like to use the Prayer for Priests at the closing).</i>
6. 7:26 – 7:28 p.m.		Prayer
7. 7:28 - 7:30 p.m.	Introduction of <i>FISHERS OF MEN.</i>	<p>“How blessed we are that Jesus instituted the priesthood and continues to beckon: ‘Come follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.’ (Mark 1:17)</p> <p>“This short, but powerful, film you are about to see is a fast-paced video that reveals the many facets of a priest's daily life and demonstrates why only real men should become priests. Sponsored by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, this film has been instrumental in convincing even non-Catholics of the importance of the priesthood.” And now we present <i>FISHERS OF MEN.</i></p>
8. 7:30 – 7:48	Show <i>FISHERS OF MEN</i>	
9. 7:48 – 7:55 p.m.	Introduction of priest speaker	<p>“What an incredible film – what an incredible vocation! Do you know someone you always thought would make a great priest? Have you ever told him so? Would you like one of your friends or perhaps your children or grandchildren to see this film? We have copies of this DVD available for sale at the table (<i>point out the sales table</i>) over</p>

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		<p>there. It comes with a booklet containing excellent thought-provoking questions. Please be sure to stop by and see the other excellent priesthood-related Ignatius Press products available for sale as well. They are also listed on the sheets found on your chairs. If we run out of anything, we can order it for you. By the way, all proceeds from the sales will go to _____.</p> <p>“Now I am honored to ask Fr. _____ to come up here to share some of his own story and personal reflections on the priesthood. Fr. _____ ...”</p>
10. 7:55 - 8:10 p.m.	Priest guest speaker presentation	
11. 8:10 - 8:14 p.m.	Introduction of <i>WITH GOD IN RUSSIA</i>	<p>“Thank you so much Fr. _____ for sharing your story and personal reflections on the priesthood with us. You are a tremendous inspiration and we are so grateful to you for answering the call and for your dedicated service.</p> <p>“This next film you are about to see is a true story of a modern day saint and a shining example of a priestly servant who suffered great adversity, inspired many and continues to inspire as his cause for canonization moves forward.</p> <p>“Well known for his heroic story of surviving 23 years in Russian prison camps, this documentary film about the great Jesuit, Fr. Walter Ciszek, traces his incredible endurance and struggle for survival. It highlights his tremendous faith in God, and the remarkable impact his life has had on the resurgence of Catholicism in Russia.”</p>
12. 8:14 – 8:45 p.m.	Show <i>WITH GOD IN RUSSIA</i>	
13. 8:45 – 8:50 p.m.	Closing comments	<p>“Thank you all so much for joining us this evening for this special <i>HONORING THE PRIESTHOOD</i> event. We would like to remind you of the wonderful priesthood-related products, including the two movies you just saw, available for sale. All proceeds from the sale of these products will benefit _____. Following the closing prayer, please join us for fellowship and refreshments. And be sure to say a very special thanks to our dedicated priests!</p>
15. 8:50 – 8:52 p.m.	Closing prayer	<p><i>Suggestion:</i> <i>You can use the Prayer for Priests on the back of</i></p>

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		<p><i>the included Holy Cards or the following prayer if you like.</i></p> <p>“Divine Savior, Jesus Christ, who have entrusted your work of redemption to the priests, who take your place on earth, we offer you, through the hands of your most holy Mother, for the sanctification of your priests and future priests this whole day, all our prayers, works, joys, sacrifices and sufferings. Give us saintly priests. Grant to them apostolic hearts, filled with love for you and all the souls belonging to you, so that, being themselves sanctified in you, they may sanctify us who are entrusted to their care and bring us safely into Heaven.</p> <p>“Loving Jesus, bless all their priestly work and sacrifice. Bless all their prayers and words at the altar and in the confessional, in the pulpit, in the school and at the sickbed. Call many young men to the priesthood and the monastic life. Protect and sanctify all who will become your priests. And grant to the souls of the priests who have departed this life, eternal rest.</p> <p>“And do you, Mary, Mother of all priests, take them under your special protection and lead them ever to the highest priestly sanctity. Amen.”</p>