



PRESENTS

## **HONORING THE PRIESTHOOD**

*A Special Event for Honoring Priests and the Office of the Priesthood  
And Other Ideas and Suggestions*

Our Ignatius Press special event – **HONORING THE PRIESTHOOD** – is a great way to highlight the exceptional service your priests provide as well as honoring your exceptional priests.

**\*Things you can do at your event:**

- Give a small gift to your parish priests at the event.
- Ask your pastor to give a short reflection or personal testimony during the event.
- Encourage attendees to purchase the books and films that are in the products package for the fundraising event. These products can be used to foster reflection and a deeper understanding of the priesthood.

**Other suggested activities:**

**\* Encourage prayer specifically for priests, especially the priests serving in your parish.**

- Purchase additional holy cards from the Knights of Columbus with the prayer for priests and distribute them throughout the parish and/or school.
- Include an intention for priests in every "Prayer of the Faithful"
- Sponsor a special weekly prayer time for priests in the church such as a rosary with benediction
- Have a novena for priests in the parish (9 evenings of prayer, meditation, benediction or Eucharistic adoration if possible)

**\* Encourage your parishioners, especially young people, to reflect on the priesthood.**

- If you have a parish school, have your priests visit the classrooms and give personal testimony of their vocation
- Prepare a special class on the priesthood and the life of St. John Vianney
- Have a special roundtable for youth on the priesthood some evening with the parish priests - complete with pizza and pop
- Show a movie on the life of a saintly priest - many available from Ignatius Press, including the ones for this event
- Have a follow-up roundtable event for youth and your pastor during the week following the **HONORING THE PRIESTHOOD** Special Event.

**\* Affirm your parish priests in the good that they do.**

- Send them a thank you note or letter stating how they have personally impacted your life for the better
- Thank them for providing you with Christ's sacraments
- If a specific sermon really touched your spirit, let them know
- Take a stand against any gossip or slander against your priests and the priesthood
- Sponsor a token gift of appreciation for your parish priest, such as an engraved plaque with his name and the important dates of his priesthood such as the date he entered the seminary, the date of his ordination to the diaconate, the date of his ordination to the priesthood, the parishes and years of his priestly assignments. Or you may wish to use or include any of the Ignatius Press products in the package.
- Use your own imagination and initiative for other activities. Even if only attended by a small portion of your parish, just having these events in your parish bulletin can go a long way in giving your parish priests a sense of encouragement and appreciation.

**\* Websites to check out for additional resources:**

These were designed for The Year for Priests (2009-2010), but are still wonderful ways to continue honoring the priesthood!

- For a leaflet with a beautiful litany for priests - <http://www.ignatius.com/year-of-the-priest/prayers.asp>
- Knights of Columbus Year for Priests Holy Card webpage - [http://www.kofc.org/un/eb/en/leadership\\_institute/surge\\_with\\_service/church\\_activities/year\\_priests/index.html](http://www.kofc.org/un/eb/en/leadership_institute/surge_with_service/church_activities/year_priests/index.html)