



PRESENTS

HONORING THE PRIESTHOOD

*A Special Event for the Year of the Priest
And Other Ideas and Suggestions*

Our Ignatius Press special event for the Year of the Priest – *HONORING THE PRIESTHOOD* – is a great way to highlight this exceptional year announced by Pope Benedict XVI (June 19, 2009 to June 19, 2010) as well as to initiate and accomplish many of the suggestions listed below.

The Ignatius Press event – *HONORING THE PRIESTHOOD* – showing two short films featuring the call to the priesthood and the life of the saintly American priest, Fr. Walter Ciszek, can be combined with praying the prayer for priests and giving a small gift to your parish priests at the event. Your priest can give a short reflection or personal testimony between the short films and, with the books and films we will send you as part of the event, you can foster reflection and a deeper understanding of the priesthood.

The Special Event for the Year of the Priest provided by Ignatius Press is a great way to launch this special year's activities. You might also have a follow-up roundtable event for youth and your pastor during the week following the *HONORING THE PRIESTHOOD* Special Event. How about a Parish Novena for priests and distribution of the special prayer for priests holy cards in your parish and parish school? Then 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.

Purpose: To aid your parish community in the celebration of the Year of the Priest, encourage a better understanding and appreciation of the great gift and sacrament of the priesthood, and provide a special thank-you for your own parish priests.

Other suggested activities for the year:

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

- Purchase 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

***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.

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

- Ignatius Press Year of the Priest webpage - www.ignatius.com/year-of-the-priest
- For a leaflet with a beautiful litany for priests - <http://www.ignatius.com/year-of-the-priest/prayers.asp>
- The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Year for Priests webpage - www.usccb.org/yearforpriests/
- 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