



Priesthood Sunday Celebration

Introduction:

Priesthood Sunday is an opportunity for us to celebrate our priests and recognize them for their vocation. This sheet and the attached package of files is intended to help you plan, organize and celebrate Priesthood Sunday in your dioceses and parishes. There is no single way to recognize your priests; rather, you should customize your activities based on the interests and resources available.

Banners and Posters

One simple option is to post a banner or poster celebrating the priests in your parish. The banner may be hung conspicuously in the entrance or vestibule of the church. A poster may similarly be placed in the vestibule where all parishioners will see it upon entering the church. Wording may include the following: “We celebrate our priests” or “Priesthood Sunday, St. Xxxx Parish celebrates its priests.”

Banners and posters may be done by hand by children and parishioners; or they may be prepared professionally and used for multiple years. Commercially prepared banners are recommended for multi-year use. Posters by students may be part of an annual contest.



Figure 1 Priesthood Sunday Banner Example

Cards

Cards for Priesthood Sunday may be sent by Serra Clubs, parishes, schools or other Catholic organizations. Cards are available from commercial vendors, or they may be produced locally. Each priest should receive an individual card. For the chancery, cards are typically sent to the Bishop/Auxiliary Bishops, the Vocation Director(s) and the Serra



Club chaplain/liaison. Individual cards may be sent to all priests of the diocese by the Serra club; the mailing list may be obtained through the Vocation Office.

For cards prepared locally, a set of examples is provided in the enclosed files. They may be adapted as desired for local use. Each is formatted in two files: one for the inside and one for the outside. The material has been prepared for printing on an 8 ½"x11" sheet of "index" or "card" stock (62# to 67#) with matching envelopes. Cards for parishes and the chancery are often done on ink-jet printers; and cards for all diocesan priests are produced commercially. Graphics should incorporate sacred art appropriate to the priesthood. Please respect copyrights when selecting the artwork; there are numerous sources for which there is no charge for "educational/not-for-profit" use.

Spiritual Bouquets

What is a Spiritual Bouquet?

A spiritual bouquet is the offering of prayers and or sacrifices to another as a gift. Traditionally it's in the form of a card letting the person know what prayers or sacrifices have been offered up for him. A spiritual bouquet may be offered by an individual or a group. For Priesthood Sunday the bouquet may be offered by a Serra Club, a parish or another organization. Bouquets are presented to priests of a parish, the Chancery and Vocation Director, or to individual priests.

How are Spiritual Bouquets Prepared?

An individual may simply decide upon the bouquet, write it in a card, and present it to the recipient. However, for groups preparing a bouquet and presenting it to one or more priests, the process is a little more involved.

First, a tally sheet is prepared and circulated to the group. A sample is shown below.

Second, the results are tabulated and consolidated.

Third, the card or cards are prepared.

Fourth, delivery and presentation are arranged.

The presentation of the cards with the spiritual bouquets may be done at a mass or other parish gathering. They may also be delivered to the parish office or the chancery. The selection of the appropriate method is a matter of local custom.

Receptions and Dinners

