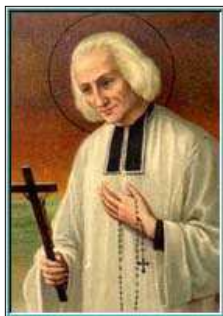


Mary's Project

Daily NOVENA



For the Sanctification of Our Bishops and Priests



Honoring The Year for Priests



June 19, 2009 - June 19, 2010

Daily Reflection

An Excerpt from the HOMILY OF HIS HOLINESS BENEDICT XVI
SOLEMNITY OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

Saint Peter's Basilica

Friday, 19 June 2009

While it is true that Jesus' invitation to "abide in my love" (cf. Jn 15:9) is addressed to all the baptized, on this feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the day of prayer for the sanctification of priests, this invitation resounds all the more powerfully for us priests. It does so in a special way this evening, at the solemn inauguration of the Year for Priests which I have proclaimed to mark the 150th anniversary of the death of the saintly Curé of Ars. A lovely and touching saying of his, quoted in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, comes immediately to mind: "the priesthood is the love of the heart of Jesus" (n. 1589). How can we fail to be moved when we recall that the gift of our priestly ministry flows directly from this heart? How can we forget that we priests were consecrated to serve, humbly yet authoritatively, the common priesthood of the faithful? Ours is a mission which is indispensable for the Church and for the world, a mission which calls for complete fidelity to Christ and constant union with him. To abide in his love entails constantly striving for holiness, as did Saint John Mary Vianney.

Litany of Our Lord Jesus Christ Priest and Victim

Lord, have mercy - *Lord, have mercy*

Christ, have mercy - *Christ, have mercy*

Lord, have mercy - *Lord, have mercy*

Christ hear us - *Christ hear us*

Christ, graciously hear us - *Christ, graciously hear us*

God the Father of heaven, **Have mercy on us*
God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
God the Holy Spirit,
Holy Trinity, One God,

Jesus, Priest and Victim, **Have mercy on us*
Jesus, Priest forever according to the Order of Melchizedek, *Have mercy on us*
Jesus, Priest Whom God sent to preach the Gospel to the poor, *Have mercy on us*
Jesus, Priest Who at the Last Supper instituted the form of the Eternal Sacrifice, *Have mercy on us*
Jesus, Priest Who lives forever to intercede for us, *Have mercy on us*
Jesus, High Priest whom the Father anointed with the Holy Spirit and power, *Have mercy on us*
Jesus, High Priest chosen from among men, *Have mercy on us*
Jesus, made High Priest for men, *Have mercy on us*
Jesus, High Priest of our confession of Faith, *Have mercy on us*
Jesus, High Priest of greater glory than Moses, *Have mercy on us*
Jesus, High Priest of the true Tabernacle, *Have mercy on us*
Jesus, High Priest of the good things to come, *Have mercy on us*
Jesus, High Priest, holy, innocent and undefiled, *Have mercy on us*
Jesus, High Priest faithful and merciful, *Have mercy on us*
Jesus, High Priest inflamed with zeal for God and souls, *Have mercy on us*
Jesus, High Priest, perfect forever, *Have mercy on us*
Jesus, High Priest, Who by Your own Blood entered the Heavens, *Have mercy on us*
Jesus, High Priest, who opened a new way for us, *Have mercy on us*
Jesus, High Priest, who loved us and washed us from our sins in Your Blood, *Have mercy on us*
Jesus, High Priest, who offered Yourself to God as an oblation and sacrificial Victim, *Have mercy on us*
Jesus, Sacrificial Victim of God and men, *Have mercy on us*
Jesus, holy and immaculate Sacrificial Victim, *Have mercy on us*
Jesus, pleasing Sacrificial Victim, *Have mercy on us*
Jesus, peace-making Sacrificial Victim, *Have mercy on us*
Jesus, sacrifice of propitiation and praise, *Have mercy on us*
Jesus, Sacrificial Victim of reconciliation and peace, *Have mercy on us*
Jesus, Sacrificial Victim in Whom we have confidence and access to God, *Have mercy on us*
Jesus, Sacrificial Victim living forever and ever, *Have mercy on us*

Be merciful, *spare us, Jesus.*
Be merciful, *graciously hear us, Jesus.*

From rashly entering the clergy, ** deliver us, Jesus*
From the sin of sacrilege,
From the spirit of incontinence,
From sordid pursuits,
From every lapse into simony,
From the unworthy administration of the Church's treasures,
From the love of the world and its vanities,
From the unworthy celebration of Your Mysteries,
Through Your Eternal priesthood,
Through the holy anointing whereby You were constituted a priest by God the Father,
Through Your priestly spirit,
Through that ministry whereby You glorified Your Father on earth,
Through the bloody immolation of Yourself made once and for all upon the Cross,

Through that same sacrifice daily renewed upon the altar,
Through that divine power which You exercise invisibly in Your priests,

That You would deign to maintain the whole priestly order in holy religion, * *We beseech You, hear us*
That You would deign to provide Your people with pastors after Your own heart,
That You would deign to fill them with the spirit of Your priesthood,
That the lips of Your priests might preserve true knowledge,
That You would deign to send faithful workers into Your harvest,
That You would deign to multiply the faithful dispensers of Your Mysteries,
That You would deign to grant them perseverance in the service of Your Will,
That You would deign to give them gentleness in their ministry, resourcefulness in their actions, and
constancy in prayer,
That through them You would deign to promote the veneration of the Blessed Sacrament everywhere,
That You would deign to receive into Your joy those who have served You well,

Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world, *spare us, O Lord*
Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world, *graciously hear us, O Lord*
Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world, *have mercy on us, O Lord*

Jesus, Our Priest, *hear us*
Jesus, Our Priest, *graciously hear us*

Let us pray:

O God, Sanctifier and Guardian of your Church, raise up in her through Your Spirit suitable and faithful dispensers of the holy Mysteries, so that by their ministry and example, the Christian people may be guided under Your protection in the path of salvation. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

O God, who, while the disciples were worshiping and fasting, ordered Saul and Barnabas to be set apart for the work to which You had called them, be present now to Your Church in prayer, and You, who know the hearts of all, indicate those whom You have chosen for ministry. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

(This prayer was prayed in Latin by Pope John Paul II as a seminarian in Cracow, and often in later life as well.)

Prayer to the Virgin Mary Before Holy Mass (for Priests) from The Roman Missal:

Mother of mercy and love, Blessed Virgin Mary, I am a poor and unworthy sinner, and I turn to you in confidence and love. You stood by your Son as He hung dying on the Cross. Stand by me, also, a poor sinner, and by all the priests who are offering Mass today here and throughout the entire Church. Help us to offer a perfect and acceptable sacrifice in the sight of the Holy and Undivided Trinity, our Most Holy God. Amen.