

PRAYING for ALL PASTORAL LEADERS

God has designated some people in the church to be, first, apostles; second, prophets; third, teachers; then, mighty deeds while others are called to gifts of healing, assistance, administration, and variety of tongues.

Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work mighty deeds?

Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret?

Strive eagerly for the greatest spiritual gifts.

1 Corinthians 12: 29-31

Presence of God

We pause and remember that the Spirit of God rests upon us; the Spirit of God consecrates us to proclaim the Good News, to heal the brokenhearted and to share the Lord's love with one another as we journey to the Father.

Anthem

We are called, we are chosen, We are Christ for one another,
we are promised to tomorrow, while we are for Him today.
We are sign, we are wonder, We are sower, we are seed,
We are harvest, we are hunger. We are question, we are creed.

1. Then where can we stand justified? In what can we believe? In no one else but Christ Who suffered, nothing more than Christ Who rose. Who was justice for the poor, Who was rage against the night, Who was hope for peaceful people, Who was light.

2. Then how are we to stand at all, this world of bended knee? In nothing more than barren shadows, No one else but Christ could save us. Who was justice for the poor, Who was rage against the night, Who was hope for peaceful people, Who was light.

3. Then shall we not stand empty at the altar of our dreams? When Christ promised us ourselves, who mark time against tomorrow, who are justice for the poor, who are rage against the night, who are hope for peaceful people, who are light.

Prayer

Father, we thank You that our pastors are faithful,
and that You preserve them.

That they abound with blessings,
and do not grow weary in well doing.

That You who began a good work in them will perfect it.

They are Your workmanship created in Christ Jesus
and equipped in every good thing to do Your will.

Work in them that which is well-pleasing in Your sight.

Let all grace abound toward them, having sufficiency in all things,
and an abundance for every good work

We pray that they continually triumph in Christ,

diffusing the fragrance of His knowledge in every place.
That all blessings come upon them and overtake them,
because they obey the voice of their God.
Instruct them and teach them in the way they should go;
reveal the deeper things of God to them by Your Spirit.
Let them be vessels of honor, sanctified and useful for You, O God,
prepared for every good work.
Shepherding the flock willingly, eagerly, and being an example to them.
Father, let the gifts and anointing on their lives come forth.
Birth the things that You have spoken to them in their hearts,
as they continually give themselves to prayer
and the ministry of the Word.
Amen.

Prayer Before The Scripture Readings

Awaken us to Your Holy Spirit that we may hear Your promptings
in these Holy Words and act upon them in our daily lives.

Romans 12: 1-21

I urge you therefore, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living
sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship.

Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of
your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and
pleasing and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I tell everyone among you not to think of yourself
more highly than one ought to think, but to think soberly, each according to the
measure of faith that God has apportioned.

For as in one body we have many parts, and all the parts do not have the same
function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ and individually parts of
one another.

Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us
exercise them: if prophecy, in proportion to the faith; if ministry, in ministering;
if one is a teacher, in teaching; if one exhorts, in exhortation; if one
contributes, in generosity; if one is over others, with diligence; if one does acts
of mercy, with cheerfulness.

Let love be sincere; hate what is evil, hold on to what is good; love one another
with mutual affection; anticipate one another in showing honor.

Do not grow slack in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope,
endure in affliction, persevere in prayer.

Contribute to the needs of the holy ones, exercise hospitality.

Bless those who persecute you, bless and do not curse them.

Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.

Have the same regard for one another; do not be haughty but associate with
the lowly; do not be wise in your own estimation.

Do not repay anyone evil for evil; be concerned for what is noble in the sight of
all. If possible, on your part, live at peace with all. The Word of the Lord!

John 10:11-18

Jesus said:

"I am the Good Shepherd.

A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

**A hired man, who is not a shepherd
and whose sheep are not his own,
sees a wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away,
and the wolf catches and scatters them.**

**This is because he works for pay and has no concern for
the sheep.**

**I am the good shepherd,
and I know mine and mine know Me,
just as the Father knows Me and I know the Father;
and I will lay down My life for the sheep.**

I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold.

**These also I must lead, and they will hear My voice,
and there will be one flock, one shepherd.**

The Gospel of the Lord!



Reflection: Archbishop John Drew of New Zealand

We live our baptism in different ways according to the vocation to which we believe God has called us. We grow throughout our lives as disciples—we learn as we listen and respond to the word of God. It is through this discipleship that we can enter into the mystery of the death and resurrection of Jesus.

The call that comes to us at baptism is unique. Every baptized person is called to be a missionary, active in the work of the church and in faithfulness to the Lord. It is a call to worship, serve and witness. As our life unfolds, the Lord invites us to reflect on our lives whether our vocation is to be lived out through marriage, the single life, religious life, priesthood or some other form of consecrated life. Our vocation is always in the context of the faith community.

There is no confusion about the distinct vocation of each one: 'The more the laity's own sense of vocation is deepened, the more what is proper to the priest stands out.

We have lay pastoral leaders and priests working closely together. But still we need priests for, without them, there would be no Eucharist and therefore no church as we know it.

My hope for this is that all priests will continue to proclaim Christ Jesus and in this way meet the deepest longings in the hearts of those we are called to serve. Pray for and support your priests and look for ways to promote vocations to the priesthood. May all people come to a greater appreciation of ordained priesthood. May priests be even more aware that they are called and privileged

to reflect the heart of Jesus to you and to know that their priestly ministry responds to the 'deepest expectations of the human heart'.

Prayers of Intercession

Response: SHEPHERD of SOULS, HEAR US.

For ourselves:

Mindful of our call to discipleship through Baptism, let us ask the Lord for the grace to be faithful followers of the Lord. For ourselves we pray:

For pastoral leaders:

May they follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ by proclaiming the gospel through their various ministries to the people who seek the Lord. For them we pray:

For pastors:

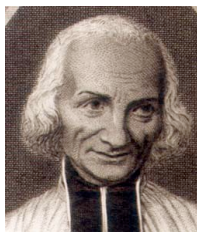
May all who share the ministry of shepherding God's flock through ordination. be light and salt for their sheep. For this we pray:

For steadfast prayer:

May we, the Christian community, take the time to pray for, and support, all those ordained to ministry. For them we pray:

For vocations:

May we be promoters of vocations to ministry and pray for an increase of dedicated workers in the Lord's vineyard. We pray:



**Saint John Vianney
Patron of parish priests**

St. John Vianney, Priest, Patron of priests. Feast day - August 4 Universally known as the "Cure of Ars". St. John Mary Vianney was ordained a priest in 1815. Three years later he was made parish priest of Ars, a remote French hamlet, where his reputation as a confessor and director of souls made him known throughout the Christian world. His life was one of extreme mortification.

Accustomed to the most severe austerities, beleaguered by swarms of penitents, and besieged by the devil, this great mystic manifested an imperturbable patience. He was a wonderworker loved by the crowds, but he retained a childlike simplicity, and he remains to this day the living image of the priest after the heart of Christ.

He heard confessions of people from all over the world for the sixteen hours each day. His life was filled with works of charity and love. It is recorded that

even the staunchest of sinners were converted at his mere word. He died August 4, 1859, and was canonized May 31, 1925.

A Prayer For Our Priests

Heavenly Father,
grant that our priests
be strengthened and healed by the
power of the Eucharist they celebrate.
May the Word they proclaim give them
courage and wisdom.

We pray that all those whom they
seek to serve may see in them
the love and care of Jesus,
our Eternal High Priest, who is Lord
for ever and ever. Amen

Mary, Mother of the Church,
Look tenderly upon your sons, our priests.
Joseph, patron of the Universal Church,
pray for us all.

Live Jesus in our hearts.
Forever!