

*We need each other...*

*"Today, because of their number, priests by themselves cannot fulfil this complete three-fold role of evangelising, sanctifying and shepherding, especially in big parishes where the needs are too great, too numerous and too various. The decline in vocations to priesthood is therefore, not only a challenge to pray for more priests, but also a challenge to avail of the talents of many lay people...But just as the priest needs the cooperation of the laity to fulfill his role, the laity too, need the priest to fulfill theirs. First and foremost they need him for his proclamation of the Word and his celebration of the Eucharist."*

*Pope Benedict XVI*

## **A Traditional Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood**

Most merciful Jesus,  
who didst bid us pray the Lord of the harvest  
to send labourers into his harvest,  
on bended knees,  
we beseech Thee to send down the Holy Spirit  
on Christian men in our land  
to inspire them with the spirit of sacrifice,  
to give them courage to leave all to follow Thee.

Spirit of piety, arouse in them zeal for souls;  
O Spirit of fortitude, give them strength to break all earthly bonds;  
O Spirit of counsel, guide them into the priesthood;  
O Spirit of knowledge,  
make them realize the truth of the words of the Holy Scripture:  
"He who causeth a sinner to be converted from the error of his way,  
shall save his soul from death, and shall cover a multitude of sins";  
O Spirit of wisdom, point out to them the vanity of the world  
and the nobility of Thy service. **Amen.**



***Christ our High Priest  
defend your Church:  
guard your priests,  
protect them from evil,  
guide their service,  
reward their sacrifice  
and all for your names sake.  
Amen***

## **Supporting Vocations & Praying for Priests**

We ask you to commit to praying regularly for vocations, for our seminarians and for our clergy. So why not...

- Say the rosary on a particular day, on your own or in a group. We suggest the Mysteries of Light as best for this purpose.
- Form a group and ask for a holy hour in front of the Blessed Sacrament. Before that, however, why not just go to Mass early or stay a few minutes longer.
- Perhaps identify someone you think might have a vocation and pray for them – who knows what God can do!

