

Supporting and Praying for Priests

Purpose: To support, encourage and pray for priests.

Whereas, As stated by Pope John Paul II, "No priest, no Eucharist... no Eucharist, no priest" (*Gift and Mystery. On the Fiftieth Anniversary of My Priestly Ordination*), and priests are essential for maintaining the Church and the world's access to the sacraments, especially the Holy Eucharist; and

Whereas, Priests are called to heroic generosity, serving as "vicars of God's love" according to St. Ambrose (*The Complete Works of St. Ambrose*). Belonging to the world, not themselves, our prayers support them in this radical way of living and giving. As stated by Fulton Sheen (*The Priest is Not His Own*), "There is no 'on duty' for a priest...he is 'on love' everywhere..."; and

Whereas, The Church encourages us to pray for those in authority -- and priests and bishops hold places of authority in the Church, as "*alter Christus*" (another Christ). In obedience to God's Word, our prayers encourage them in walking and living according to this supreme dignity;

Resolved, That NCCW members be mindful of the challenges faced by priests and bishops and offer them understanding and compassion, encouragement, and prayers of support and strength; and

Resolved, That NCCW members regularly pray for priests and bishops, individually and as a community, offering support for their various needs and roles as outlined above, utilizing programs such as Seven Sisters Apostolate (sevensistersapostolate.org); and

Resolved, That NCCW members foster a culture of respect for the priesthood.

Submitted by:
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