

## NOVENA FOR PRIESTS

Jesus Good Sheppard,

You sent the Holy Spirit to guide Your Church and lead her faithful to you through the ministry of her priests. Through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, grant to your priests wisdom in leading, faithfulness in teaching, and holiness in guarding your sacred Mysteries.

As they cry out with all the faithful, "Abba, Father!" may your priests be ever more closely identified with You in Your divine Sonship and offer their own lives with You, the one saving Victim. Make them helpful brothers of one another, and understanding fathers of all Your people.

Renew in Your priests deeper faith, greater trust in You, childlike reliance on your Mother Mary, and unwavering fidelity to the Holy Father and his bishops.

Holy Mary, intercede for your priests.

St. Joseph, protect them.

St. Michael, defend them.

St. John Vianney, pray for them.

"... The priesthood is the supreme particular calling to share in the name of Christ, a calling which confers the sublime possibility of speaking and acting in His name. Every time we receive the Eucharist, this possibility too becomes reality. We act in 'persona Christi' when at that moment of the consecration, we say the words: This is my body which will be given up for you... This is the cup of my blood, the blood of the new and everlasting covenant. It will be shed for you and for all so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in memory of me.' We do this precisely with deep humility and profound love. This exalted yet simple action of our daily mission as priests opens up humanity, so to speak, to its forth limits..." Pope John Paul II March 13, 19??