

SIMPLE AND EASY PRIESTHOOD SUNDAY ideas that WORK!

Handed out prayer cards for our pastor (pastor's picture was on the front and an excellent prayer on the back.) We had these printed for a reasonable cost by a professional printer – I'm sure he would gladly make them for you if you just email him the Priest's name and picture as well as the name of your parish. People were so thankful that we did it! We figured one per family (1300) but had to order more.

The prayer:

Almighty Father, we thank You for the vocation of Father _____ whom You have called into the priesthood of Your Son.

Jesus, may he always look to You as an example of humility, service and charity. Holy Spirit, use him as an instrument to challenge many Catholics, especially the young, to love Christ and embrace the heart of the Church.

Mary, wrap your mantle around Father _____ and intercede for his strength and faithfulness to the Church.

Holy Trinity – bless him! Blessed Mother – intercede for him! St. John Vianney – pray for all priests!

Email Jane Lyons for printer connection if you need it. GJLyons@gmail.com

We also made a prayer card for our teaching seminarian:

O Jesus, Eternal High priest, I offer You through Your immaculate Mother Mary, Your own precious Blood, in all the Masses throughout the world, as petition for graces for all seminarians, Your future priests, especially for _____. Give them humility, meekness, prudence and a burning zeal for souls. Fill their hearts with the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to know and love the Church that they may always and everywhere speak, act and think with her, the glorious spouse of Christ. Teach them generosity and detachment from worldly goods; but above all, teach them to know You and to love the One and Only Eternal Priest. Good Shepherd of Souls, hear this my prayer for saintly priests. Amen.

Celebrate with treats - we had cake (instead of donuts) one year but Father really prefers Rice Krispie bars as a special treat for the kids (and for him!)

Praying over pastor - all congregation raised their hands during a prayer read by a Serran at the end of Mass. (Not all pastors or liturgy directors are comfortable with this.)

Homily on priesthood given by Deacon or teaching seminarian worked well.

Bulletin announcements the week before and the weekend of Priesthood Sunday explain and promote thinking, thanking and praying for our priests.

Spiritual bouquets done by the children in the school are appreciated.

Essay contests for the children regarding what priesthood means to them are carried out in some parishes. Prizes and/or notoriety are given to the best ones.

Jane Lyons, vocation team coordinator, Nativity of Mary parish, Bloomington, Mn

Note: any of these activities are also appropriate for celebrating major anniversaries of priest or pastor's ordination.

Sometime during the year it is helpful to begin building a culture of vocations in the parish by utilizing all or part of the **Five Star Program**. The easiest step is to insert vocation notes in each week's bulletin. These announcements are in a link in the Five Star Program. People often don't even know what vocation truly is; they think it's the same as being a Doctor vs a salesperson, for example.

Pray for our Seminarians



**Ryan Andrews
Teaching Seminarian
Nativity of Mary**

**O Jesus, Eternal High Priest,
I offer You through Your Immaculate
Mother Mary, Your own Precious
Blood, in all the Masses throughout
the world, as petition for graces for all
seminarians, Your future priests,
especially for Ryan Andrews. Give them
humility, meekness, prudence, and a
burning zeal for souls. Fill their hearts
with the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Teach
them to know and love the Church,
that they may always and everywhere
speak, act, and think with her, the
glorious spouse of Christ. Teach them
generosity and detachment from
worldly goods; but above all, teach
them to know You and to love the
One and Only Eternal Priest. Good
Shepherd of Souls, hear this my
prayer for saintly priests.**

Amen.