

# WE L♥VE OUR PRIESTS

## October 26, 2008

### World Priest Day

세계 사제의 날



Sponsored by:  
Worldwide Marriage Encounter

# 2008 Celebration Starter Kit

# “WPD Celebration Starter Kit”

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For Ideas From Across the Country Check the Web Site: [wpd.wwme.org](http://wpd.wwme.org)

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# World Priest Day

## Mission and Purpose

**World Priest Day (WPD) is a celebration and affirmation of the men who commit their lives to the Lord and the Church via the Sacrament of Holy Orders. It is an opportunity for Catholic parishioners to thank, affirm and share their love and support for our priests.**

Sponsored by WorldWide Marriage Encounter since 2000



## For Immediate Release

Date:

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## For Immediate Release

### World Priest Day to be celebrated on October 26<sup>th</sup>

Worldwide Marriage Encounter is sponsoring World Priest Day the last Sunday of October 2008 (October 26, 2008) which coincides with the Serra Club's Priesthood Sunday. World Priest Day focuses on celebrating the ongoing affirmation of priests and building of relationships between couples and priests. The mission and purpose of World Priest Day is to celebrate and affirm the men who commit their lives to the Lord and the Church via the Sacrament of Holy Orders. It is an opportunity for Catholic parishioners to thank, affirm and share their love and support for priests.

It is designed to be a day or several days to rejoice in the Sacrament of Holy Orders. On this day, or during the week preceding or following it, Catholics in across the country are encouraged to develop one or several experiences to affirm priests. This will be a unique occasion for reaching out to priests. Go to [wpd.wwme.org](http://wpd.wwme.org) for ideas that you can use. The World Priest Day National Coordinating Team encourages you to celebrate with them the priests you know and love.

For more information about Worldwide Marriage Encounter or World Priest Day call 800-795-5683 or visit their website at [www.wwme.org](http://www.wwme.org).

- End -

# **WORLD PRIEST DAY**

## **I. Overview:**

**World Priest Day (WPD)** is a celebration of our Worldwide Marriage Encounter movement's love for our priests and our faithfulness to the Worldwide Marriage Encounter Mission Statement.

We want to support the men who live their Sacrament of Holy Orders each day. This celebration and starter kit helps us as a couple, a family, a local Marriage Encounter Community and our Church with ideas on how to affirm our priests.

Priests have been and are a significant part of our lives. They have ministered to us, preached to us, counseled us, helped to present our weekend, and they continue to journey with us. Let us share our lives, our appreciation and love through suggestions on these pages. There is something here for everyone. Get your children involved. Encourage the young men in your family, in our marriage encounter families, and our church to listen for God's call to be open to become great priests.

Remember you don't have to wait until World Priest Day to do something and you can continue even after that day.

## **II. Couple and Family Celebration Suggestions**

1. Send a card to your parish priest or bishop telling them what their sacrament and/or friendship means to you. A special World Priest Day Note Card is found on page 14 and 15 of this document and can be downloaded for your use.
2. Introduce yourself and family to your priest or bishop you have not met.
3. Invite a priest or bishop you know, or do not know, to breakfast, lunch, or dinner.
4. If you invite them to dinner, you may make it a candle-lighted dinner with china, linens, and maybe soft music. Be creative! Kids could be included in this too! Let the kids help set the table and prepare for his arrival. Or make it a down home barbecue or something unique and special to your family
5. Send them flowers or a balloon bouquet.
6. Invite them on a family picnic and pick them up if possible.
7. If you know a priest or bishop out of town, give them a call; send a note, flowers, balloon bouquet.
8. Bake them cookies, etc. (Kids love to get involved).
9. Have the kids color them a picture or write them a letter.
10. Invite them to your home.
11. Go on an outing together, such as a dinner and a play, concert, bowling, movie, hunting, fishing, golf, tennis, etc.
12. Cook together in the kitchen.
13. Pray the Prayer Intentions during WPD Day. (Found on page 12 of this document)
14. Be creative and have fun with this special event. Let us know what you dreamed up to honor priests.

### III. Parish Wide or Community Celebration Suggestions

1. Invite your priest or bishop to a dinner hosted by your group or community. It can be as simple or elaborate as you like – the key is building relationships with them.
2. Invite them to a breakfast or lunch.
3. Take time before or after weekend liturgies to recognize and appreciate your pastor.
4. Distribute and use the WPD Prayer found on page 9.
5. Invite them to a picnic hosted by your group or community. Pick them up and bring them.
6. Have a prayer day for your priests or bishop similar to that of a prayer scroll where hours are covered by couples and families. This is a way to pray for deeper relationships between our priests or bishops and our families. See World Priest Day 24 hour prayer intentions on pages 12 and 13.
7. Invite them to a wine and cheese party with your friends and neighbors.
8. Send the “press release” to your Catholic Newspaper. See page 4.
9. Include them in a family night hosted by your group or community.
10. Adopt a seminarian by utilizing some of the suggestions here or some of your own ideas.
11. Send goody baskets, balloon bouquets, or flowers to all priests in the deanery or diocese. Include drawings, notes and prayer bouquets from the kids. Remember to identify that it is sent with love from your group or community.
12. Pray the World Priest Day 24 hour prayer Intentions during World Priest Day and throughout the year.
13. Place an ad in the Catholic Newspaper wishing all priests a happy World Priest Day, complete with WPD logo and WWME logo – or your own creative design. Better yet, get the diocesan, or city, newspaper to do an article on WPD! (Don't forget to send us a copy!)
14. Get Catholic Schools or CCD Classes involved in a poster or essay contest or in writing notes to their pastor.
15. Be creative and let us know what you dreamed up.

## COMMUNITY WPD PRESENTATION OUTLINE

### A REFLECTION ON PRIESTS and THE PRIESTHOOD

**Can be used to write a presentation to focus on WPD at your community meeting or to choose a few questions for open sharing at your community meeting before WPD**

- I. Experience of Priests and the Priesthood
  - A. Growing up
    1. What were my attitudes about priests in general and/or specifically
    2. What were my expectations of priests
  - B. Outlook on priests as an adult
    1. What kind of relationship did you have with the priest who presided at your wedding and after
    2. What has been your involvement (or lack) with priests after your marriage
    3. What were your attitudes about your son(s) becoming a priest before your weekend
  - C. Just prior to your weekend
    1. Did you know a priest would be presenting the weekend
    2. What did you think he was doing on a Marriage Encounter W/E
    3. Thoughts and feelings (describe them) about the priest's presence on the weekend
- II. The Priest on your weekend
  - A. Initial reaction, thoughts and feelings about the priest as the weekend began
  - B. What changes in your attitudes about priests occurred during the weekend
  - C. Share your realization and new view about priests as people
- III. After the Weekend
  - A. What is your view and experience of your parish priest now
    1. Do you find yourself accepting him flaws & all
    2. Share the new attitude in your heart especially when you disagree with him
  - B. What is your view of your parish and fellow parishioners now after the W/E
    1. Do you feel a sense of belonging
    2. Do you want to get more involved
  - C. Relationship with a priest(s)
    1. Have you sought out a friendship with a priest
      - a. What are/were your barriers to seeking that friendship
      - b. How are/did you overcome them
      - c. Briefly describe that journey and your growing relationship with him
      - d. Effects of your relationship with him on you and your family
      - e. Attitudes and feelings now about your son(s) considering the priesthood

#### **Possible Dialogue Questions:**

What are my thoughts and feelings about my/our relationship with our priest(s) after listening to this presentation?

What are my thoughts and feelings as we (as a couple, family and share group) approach the celebration of WORLD PRIEST DAY? Describe your feelings in loving detail.

**Sharing Question:** Share on your dialogue

## **Priest Appreciation Talk Outline**

This talk answers the question: How have priests touched and made our lives different?

### **General:**

The goal of this talk is to say thank you to our priests, but more importantly to present to the people of the parish (especially the young men of the parish) an attractive view of the priest hood.

This is why pastors might welcome the talk, because it is a way of validating the call a young man may be experiencing. We must be careful, as some priests and pastors could see this as patronizing, or manipulative. It should never be used for any purpose other than to reflect our appreciation of our priest and the hope of developing and deepening relationships with our priests. In today's world, there are not enough voices saying what a worthy vocation the priesthood is. The louder voices in today's world present negative views of the priesthood, making one wonder why anyone would want to be a priest. We must raise our voices to the contrary for future priests and parents of future priests to hear. This presentation is not limited to Mass only; it can be given at any celebration honoring priests, like a luncheon. It could be given by the local permanent deacon as a part of his homily. Remember it is only a suggestion to give you a head start, so you can work with it and personalize it. If you use it, let us know how it works out.

### **Nuts and Bolts:**

- Talk length: Tailor to what the pastor wants - 2 standard lengths are:
  - 3 - 4 minutes for post communion time
  - 7 - 8 minutes for homily time
- Have both the short and longer version with you – after Father hears the short talk he may ask you to move to homily time for the next Mass and give you more time.

#### Workshopping:

- We strongly urge any couple giving a talk representing WWME have their talk workshopped by an experienced couple
- Will help you prioritize your sharings, which should be in even the shorter talk and which should be saved for a longer talk
- A fresh pair of eyes will help clarify and trim repetition
- Will help with time factor

### **Outline:**

#### **I. Introduction**

Greeting and information on speakers (may be given by priest introducing them)

#### **II. Background on World Priest Day**

Your chance to mention WWME. Be prepared and have fliers.

#### **III. Sharing: Your experience of priests & priesthood**

##### **A. Childhood**

B. If you have a good wedding story include it

C. Adult stories: 1. Some sacramental -- Baptism, 1st communion, loss of loved one

2. Stories to reflect how you changed and reflect the humanness of priests.

D. Thank the priest celebrating the Mass.

### **Things to avoid**

1. Don't make it sound like only WWME couples can have these special experiences of priests, the more relate-able we are to the entire congregation, the better. And don't share stories that leave Father looking like a functionary, even a sacrament story - where you expect Father to impact you, this should be shared in a very personal way.



## WORLD PRIEST DAY PRAYER

Heavenly Father,

We come before you today to ask your blessing on our brothers,  
Whom you have called to the Sacrament of Holy Orders.

Lord Jesus,

We ask that you support them with your presence  
And fill them with grace to serve You faithfully.

Gracious Spirit,

Unite us in service with those whom you have called.  
Open our hearts to encourage our brothers and sons to pursue your calling,  
And open their hearts to hear Your call to this most Holy Sacrament.

Amen.

# Candy Wrapper Instructions



1. Download from the website ([wpd.wwme.org](http://wpd.wwme.org)) from download tab (WPD Candy Wrapper) Wrapper should be printed landscape and fit to page in order to cover the candy bar properly.
2. There are two wrappers per sheet. Cut them apart.
3. Purchase “Hershey” flat size candy bars.
4. Wrap the candy bar sealing with a glue stick over the current wrapper.
5. Use the We Love Our Priests candy in your goody baskets, balloon bouquets, or any creative way you choose.

## WORLD PRIEST DAY 2008 FEEDBACK

**We know you worked hard. Please take a few minutes to tell us about your area's World Priest Day celebration and the events you planned.**

Marriage Encounter Community or Group: \_\_\_\_\_ Section No. \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

**For which previous years have you been involved in planning World Priest Day events?**

**A brief description of the things you did to celebrate World Priest Day:**

**A brief description of the media coverage you received for World Priest Day and our celebration events (include newspapers, magazines, radio, television, newsletters, church bulletins) :**

*Please send copies of news articles, photos and any other coverage of WPD or event*

**Tell us what you think of the World Priest Day planning materials you received:**

(Rating of 1 to 10: 1 = poor and 10 = excellent)

**Timeline: \_\_\_\_\_ Appearance of Material : \_\_\_\_\_ Format: \_\_\_\_\_ Informative Value: \_\_\_\_\_ Supportive: \_\_\_\_\_**

**What else would help you in your WPD planning?**

**Comments:**

**Please send this form to us:**

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## World Priest Day 24 Hour Prayer Intentions

Here are 24 prayer petitions for priests. In the interest of several people praying together in Spirit, we are asking individuals and couples to lift up that prayer intention during the specified hour if possible. By doing so, each intention hopefully will be offered by several across the nation during that hour. In this way we can be united in our prayer focus by time zone.

12:00 AM: Pray for the health, welfare and spiritual growth of all priests, especially those that have been a gift to you and your family. Name them and visualize them as you pray

1:00 AM: Pray that those men being called by God to the Priesthood listen and hear that call.

2:00 AM: Pray that priests may strive to be men of prayer so their work may be fruitful.

3:00 AM: Pray that priests may be an instrument for an increase of understanding and unity between the other Christian Churches and the Catholic Church.

4:00 AM: Pray for missionaries in foreign lands that they recognize the fruits of their sacrifice and come to know the love of those to whom they minister and serve.

5:00 AM: Pray for the diocesan priests that serve the Church in isolated places that they come to experience the love and service of holy men and women in their parishes.

6:00 AM: Pray that Bishops may be open and attentive to the needs of their priests.

7:00 AM: Pray for wisdom, compassion and perseverance for priests in their healing role.

8:00 AM: Pray for retired priests that they grow in appreciation of their lifelong vocation of loving God's people.

9:00 AM: Pray that priests may be bonded in brotherhood and strive to overcome differences in age, culture, personality styles and taste.

10:00 AM: Pray for priests who teach in colleges, universities and seminaries that they remain committed to teaching the truth of Jesus.

11:00 AM: Pray for your parish priest and his needs.

12:00 PM: Pray for Pope Benedict XVI, your Bishop, and all the clergy to serve and lead the Church with passion and love.

1:00 PM: Pray for priests who have been unjustly accused of sexual misconduct.

2:00 PM: Pray for priests suffering from discouragement or doubt.

3:00 PM: Pray for priests who God is inviting to minister in Worldwide Marriage Encounter that they may hear the call and answer with open hearts and minds.

4:00 PM: Pray that priests will more fully experience the joy of the privilege of bringing Jesus to the people through the Sacraments of the Church.

5:00 PM: Pray for religious orders that they remain faithful to the vision of their founders as they carry on their ministry.

6:00 PM: Pray for the priest who had the most profound influence on your life.

7:00 PM: Pray for priests caught in addictions for their healing and ability to forgive themselves for their failure.

8:00 PM: Pray that priests pace themselves in a healthy manner in face of ever increasing workloads and assignments.

9:00 PM: Pray for priests experiencing physical pain or disease.

10:00 PM: Pray for a healthy balance of prayer, service and relaxation among the priests of our nation and the world.

11:00 PM: Pray that priests experience joy and peace through their participation in the lives of those they serve.

12:00 PM: Pray that the lived witness of priests will inspire young men to hear and accept God's call to the priesthood.



## BLESSING FOR A PASTOR

*This blessing is for use at a Sunday Liturgy on World Priest Day or any weekend during the month of October. Following the Prayer after Communion, a member of the parish pastoral council or any parish member(s) leads the community in blessing the Pastor.*

During the month of October we celebrate World Priest Day. Priests daily use the gifts of healing, counseling, preaching and celebrating the Eucharist to and for the benefit of Catholics everywhere. We pause today with a special prayer for our own pastor, Father \_\_\_\_\_, asking God to continue to bless him in his ministry. I invite you now to extend your hands toward Father as I (We) lead a prayer of blessing.

*All in the assembly extend their hands as the leader continues:*

All honor and glory to you, Lord our God, maker of all and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. In your faithfulness and love, you sent your only Son to live with us and to save us by giving his life for us.

Today we offer you thanks and praise for choosing Father \_\_\_\_\_, to be filled with the Spirit of Jesus as he leads your flock with zeal and wisdom. We ask you to give him your fullest blessing in his priestly ministry. Help him to serve others as generously as Jesus did, in times of sorrow and in times of joy.

Caring God, bless our pastor, Father \_\_\_\_\_, so that he may nourish us with your Word, lead us in prayer and worship, and sustain us as a shepherd and father.

Saving God, bless our pastor, Father \_\_\_\_\_, so that he may instruct us by his teaching, inspire us by his preaching, and encourage us by word and deed to work with him for the good of our parish.

Loving God be close to your servant Father \_\_\_\_\_, our pastor, as he follows your Son. Guide him in paths that are level and smooth. May your powerful grace make him strong in faith, joyful in hope, and fervent in love, this day and every day to come. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

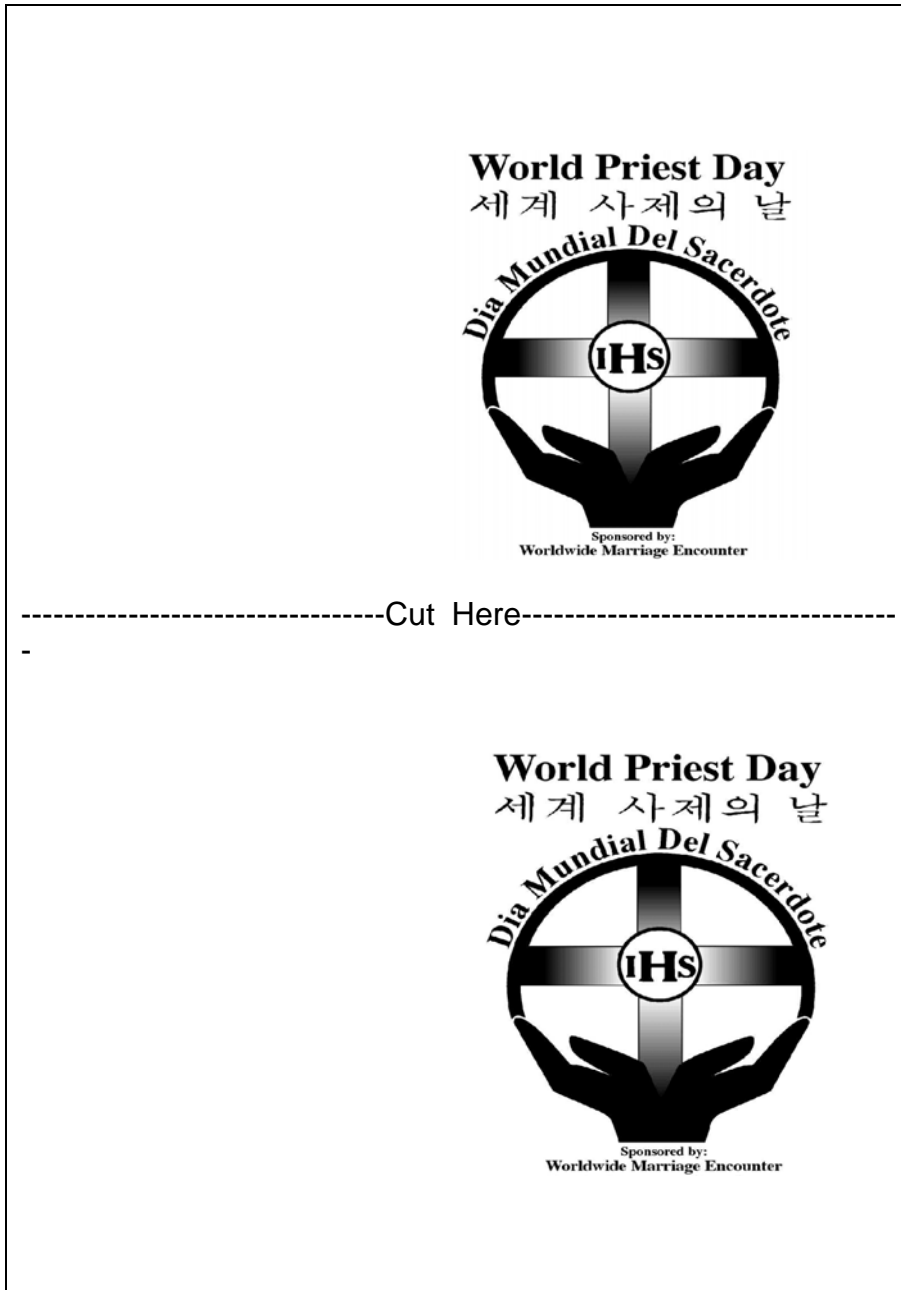
Amen.

# Cards Note Instructions

Directions: Copy the following page (page 15) onto a blank word document page. The reason you have to copy the page is to eliminate the page number and narrative in the footer. Insure you evenly space the logos on the page and print on cardstock. Cut the cardstock in half and fold to produce two cards that can be used to correspond with priests.

## Example

8 1/2 X 11 Cardstock



1. Cut in Half
2. Fold to make two 4 ¼ X 5 ½ Cards

**World Priest Day**  
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Sponsored by:  
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