



June 2009

Dear Area Leaders,

In this “Year of the Priesthood” as proclaimed by Pope Benedict XVI (19 June 2009 to 19 June 2010) Worldwide Marriage Encounter will celebrate World Priest Day on Sunday, October 25, 2009, the same day the Serra Club observes Priesthood Sunday. 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.

A letter has been sent to all Bishops and Diocesan Family Life Directors in the nation. However, we believe the responsibility to celebrate World Priest Day rests primarily with presenting teams, community members and other encountered couples. While Worldwide Marriage Encounter has a tradition of ongoing support and affirmation of priests, World Priest Day was established to emphasize our appreciation and love for priests.

We are counting on you to provide leadership and motivate your team community and other encountered couples in your area to make sure priests (both encountered and not yet encountered) are affirmed and recognized in some special way on this day and throughout the year.

The website wpd.wwme.org has suggestions and information to help make this year’s celebration of World Priest Day the best ever. On the website, double click on “2009 WPD Celebration Starter Kit” and look at it. In the Starter Celebration Kit there is a News Release for your diocesan newspaper, Celebration Suggestions, a Community Presentation Outline, a 24 Hour Prayer Focus, a Blessing for a Pastor and a WPD Prayer among other celebration ideas and aids. We ask for your enthusiastic and passionate support for WPD by energizing your team community and other encountered couples and giving them direction and ideas for its celebration. And after the day’s celebrations and activities are complete, let us know what happened at the next Section Meeting.

Our Love,

(Section Leaders)