

PRAYERS

1. Prayer for Priests by St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus

O Jesus, I pray for your faithful and fervent priests;
for your unfaithful and tepid priests;
for your priests laboring at home or abroad in distant mission fields;
for your tempted priests;
for your lonely and desolate priests;
for your young priests;
for your dying priests;
for the souls of your priests in purgatory.

But above all, I recommend to you the priests dearest to me:
the priest who baptized me;
the priests who absolved me from my sins;
the priests at whose Masses I assisted and who gave me your Body and Blood in Holy Communion;
the priests who taught and instructed me;
all the priests to whom I am indebted in any other way (especially ...).

O Jesus, keep them all close to your heart,
and bless them abundantly in time and in eternity.
Amen.

2. Prayer by St. Teresa of Kolkata

Mary, Mother of Jesus, throw your mantle of purity over our priests.
Protect them, guide them, and keep them in your heart.
Be a Mother to them, especially in times of discouragement and loneliness.
Love them and keep them belonging completely to Jesus.
Like Jesus, they, too, are your sons, so keep their hearts pure and virginal.
Keep their minds filled with Jesus, and put Jesus always on their lips,
so that he is the one they offer to sinner and to all they meet.

Mary, Mother of Jesus, be their Mother, loving them and bringing them joy.
Take special care of sick and dying priests, and the ones most tempted.
Remember how they spent their youth and old age, their entire lives serving and giving all to Jesus.
Mary, bless them and keep a special place for them in your heart.
Give them a piece of your heart, so beautiful and pure and immaculate,
so full of love and humility, so that they, too, can grow in the likeness of Christ.

Dear Mary, make them humble like you, and holy like Jesus.
Amen.

1. **Prayer by St. Faustina**

(From the Diary of St. Faustina, § 1052)

O my Jesus, I beg You on behalf of the whole Church:

Grant it love and the light of Your Spirit, and give power to the words of priests so that hardened hearts might be brought to repentance and return to You, O Lord.

Lord, give us holy priests; You yourself maintain them in holiness.

O Divine and Great High Priest, may the power of Your mercy accompany them everywhere and protect them from the devil's traps and snares which are continually being set for the souls of priests.

May the power of Your mercy, O Lord, shatter and bring to naught all that might tarnish the sanctity of priests, for You can do all things.

Amen.

2. **Prayer for Priests**

(From the League Prayers of The Catholic Women's League of Canada)

Almighty and eternal God, whose Spirit sanctifies and governs the Church,

Hear our prayers for all in Holy Orders,

So that by the gift of Your grace, Your priests may serve You faithfully.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

3. **Prayer by Pope Benedict XVI**

Lord Jesus Christ, eternal High Priest,

you offered yourself to the Father on the altar of the cross

and through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit

gave your priestly people a share in your redeeming sacrifice.

Hear our prayer for the sanctification of our priests.

Grant that all who are ordained to the ministerial priesthood

may be ever more conformed to you, the Divine Master.

May they preach the Gospel with pure heart and clear conscience.

Let them be shepherds according to your own heart,

single-minded in service to you and to the Church,

and shining examples of a holy, simple, and joyful life.

Through the prayers of the Blessed Virgin Mary, your Mother and ours,

draw all priests and the flocks entrusted to their care

to the fullness of eternal life where you live and reign

with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

4. **Prayer for our Sisters and Brothers in the Consecrated Life**

(Year of the Consecrated Life, 2015, approved by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops & Canadian Religious Conference)

Heavenly Father, you call women and men to follow Jesus,
in poverty, chastity, and obedience.
Help them grow as witnesses of your love and mercy,
by embracing the Gospel and journeying with your people.

Fill us with gratitude and joy
for the variety of gifts made so abundant
through the consecrated life in Canada.

Help those on this path of holiness
to listen to what the Holy Spirit is saying to the Church and the world today.

Give them unwavering hope that they may embrace the future
with confidence and boldness.
Let the beauty and holiness of the consecrated life
continue to shine forth in our Church.

May Mary, endowed with every gift of grace,
be for your people the model of love and service for God and neighbour.

Through Christ your Son, Our Lord.
Amen.