

What is 'St. Michael Prayer Warriors'?

As a member of this new apostolate, St. Michael Prayer Warriors, I am deeply grateful to each and every one of you who are here this evening.

As the Great John Paul II said: "Vocations are indeed a gift from God for which we must pray unceasingly. We must follow Jesus' invitation to pray to the Lord of the Harvest to send our laborers into His harvest."

I believe, more than ever, that there is a great urgency for us, the laity, to pray and sacrifice for the preservation and sanctity of our priests. We ALL need the help and prayers of one another so that we can receive the graces needed to grow in holiness. How much more than, should we be praying for our priests from whom we receive Jesus Christ in the Eucharist and by whom we have so often been absolved from our sins. With all of the temptations of this world our priests are under a great attack. Christ chose ordinary people to be His disciples. And like all ordinary people the priest is inclined to sin. He is like every other human being in that he has limitations and weakness too. He too can experience loneliness, at times he gets tired and there may even be a time where he faces a crisis with his faith. But through spiritual support, a vocation can be renewed and new ones can be nurtured.

Quoting John Paul II once again, he said "Prayer, enriched by silent offering of suffering, remains the first and most effective means of pastoral work for vocations. To pray means to keep our gaze fixed on Christ, confident that from Him, the one High Priest; there will be an abundant growth, by the work of the Holy Spirit, of the seeds of those vocations needed in every age for the Church's life and mission."

It is through prayer that we are asking all of you to go out and spread this message of priestly renewal and vocations that are so deeply needed in our world today.

THE QUESTION NOW IS: WHAT DO WE DO AFTER WE LEAVE THIS EVENT TONIGHT?

We are all called to personal holiness and that is where we need to begin. Personally we need to put Christ first in our lives and the beginning of that is time and effort towards prayer life as well as participation in the Sacraments of the Church especially the Eucharist and confession.

As members of the laity, most of us have been called or will be called to married life and children. We are called to create a domestic church within our home and family. We are called to pray for and with our husband or wife AND our children.

We are also called, in our vocation of marriage to teach our children by example to love Christ.

Our current Holy Father, Pope Benedict said that Prayer itself is born in Catholic families and that it is the first means by which we come to know the Lord's Will for our lives. To that end, we need to teach young people, especially our children, to pray and to pray well.

In that vein, St. Michael Prayer Warriors is asking you to not only pray and pray well but to pray for our priests and vocations to the priesthood. Pope Benedict asks us to 'Love Your Priests' and what more important way to show our love for them, than to pray for them. That is the goal of this apostolate – St. Michael Prayer Warriors.

We are asking you to spend 1 hour a month in prayer before Our Lord, exposed in the Blessed Sacrament with fellow parishioners and to pray daily with your family for priestly renewal and vocations.

In the folders you have received are materials to help you initiate this cause. It includes a Holy Hour Program for this intention, a family prayer sheet – morning, dinner and night time prayers, a beautiful prayer card, as well as the September Newsletter. The folder also contains a list of more suggestions to spread St. Michael Prayer Warriors in your parish.

In addition monthly newsletters are available on line with more suggestions and prayer intentions.

If Eucharistic Adoration is not available to you at your church, you can have your group spend time in front of the tabernacle or start a rosary group after morning Mass or in the evening. There are many possibilities of gathering a group of laity to pray for this intention.

And please remember there is always the option of coming here to this most holy place of worship – Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Center and spending an hour in prayer either in the Eucharistic Adoration Chapel or in one of two chapels that are located here.

If you have not prayed with your family before, then this will be a beautiful way to start. Pick on time..perhaps after dinner and begin your journey towards personal holiness. Bring your family together ... as we pray together for our priests.

Please be aware that there will be another St. Michael Prayer Warrior event 6 months from now – to reinvigorate you, to provide more suggests and allow you a venue to bring others whom you have gathered to pray for priestly renewal.

Let's spread the news that we, the laity, care and love our priests and want them to help them to continue to grow in holiness as they continue to serve us and bring us into a deeper relationship with our dear Lord.

I am asking and encouraging each of you to step up and initiate this prayer group in your parish.

Thank you again for coming out this evening and please pray with us that the Holy Spirit will strengthen our priests and call more priests to serve His People in His Church.

Mary, Mother of All Priests – Pray for us.