

A Great Spiritual Movement of Prayer for our Priests

A Call from the Vatican for the Faithful to Pray

Over three years ago, on December 8, 2007, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, an easy to read, inspiring booklet entitled *Eucharistic Adoration for the Sanctification of Priests and Spiritual Maternity** was quietly released from the Vatican. Pope Benedict XVI's words introduce it and call for perpetual Eucharistic adoration on a world wide scale for the true good of priests and the fruitfulness of their ministries through the intercession of our Blessed Mother. He asks us to cooperate and persevere in "praying to the Lord of the harvest, to stir his heart, and together with God, touch the hearts of others through our prayer." Many dramatic stories follow witnessing to the power of simple, ongoing prayer. One of the stories for vocations tells of many mothers coming together for an hour of adoration each week in the tiny village of Lu in northern Italy. Their deepest desire was that one of their sons would become a priest or that a daughter would place her life completely in God's service. A photo captures the answer to their prayer: In 1946, 323 priests and nuns returned to Lu for a reunion. (To read other inspirational stories on the internet, google® *Eucharistic Adoration for the Sanctification of Priests and Spiritual Maternity.*)



Questions for us:

- How can we help priests, especially pastors, live their vocation and mission?
- How can we help them be enthusiastic witnesses of Christ, joyfully aware and conscious that they are making an important contribution to us?
- What would it be like to see hundreds of our children grow up to be priests/religious?

The Example of the Tiny Village of Lu A Story from the Booklet*

The mothers gathered every Tuesday for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, asking the Lord for vocations and received Holy Communion on the first Sunday of every month with the same intention. After Mass, all the mothers prayed a particular prayer together imploring for vocations to the priesthood.

They prayed: "O God, grant that one of my sons or daughters may become a priest or religious! I myself want to live as a good Christian and want to guide my children always to do what is right, so that I may receive the grace, O God, to be allowed to give you a holy priest/religious! Amen.

Through their trusting prayer and the openness of the other parents, an atmosphere of deep joy and Christian piety developed in the families, making it much easier for the children to recognize their vocations.

Did the Lord not say, "*Many are called, but few are chosen.*" (Mt 22:14) In other words, many are called, but only a few respond to that call. No one expected that God would hear the prayers of these mothers in such an astounding way. From the tiny village of Lu came 323 vocations, 152 priests (diocesan and religious), and 171 nuns belonging to 41 different congregations.

Every ten years, the priests and sisters born in Lu come together from all around the world. In September, 1946, the majority of the priests and religious met in their village for a reunion which attracted world-wide attention.

A Transforming Nun A Story from the Booklet*

A humble nun offered herself as a spiritual mother for any priest who was in great need of prayer. Many years later, a bishop living nearby was enlightened interiorly to understand that a nun in a nearby convent had been instrumental in his transformation. He went to the convent...

(To read the entire story, or other inspirational stories from the booklet, on the internet google® *Eucharistic Adoration for the Sanctification of Priests and Spiritual Maternity.*)

Would you be willing to become a “Spiritual Mother” to support a priest/seminarian of your choosing, an unknown priest, or to pray specifically for vocations from our parish families?

Spiritual Motherhood is Simple and Rewarding

- Prayerfully discern if becoming a Spiritual Mother is something you are called to do.
- Choose a priest/seminarian/or pray for a special young person, known or unknown. (It is important to keep your selection between you and God.)
- Remember the person every day. Say a prayer as you do your chores, offer up trials and sufferings, pray a prayer for priests and vocations, spend time in Eucharistic adoration, offer a Mass as you can.
- Honor this commitment a day at a time for the rest of your life, just as a physical mother does.
- Look for an opportunity to pray as a group for priests and vocations.
- The Immaculate Heart of Mary will forever thank you for praying for her beloved priest sons.

Mary, Mother of Jesus Christ, Eternal High Priest,
Mother of all priests and our Mother, help us to
respond generously to the Holy Spirit's request,
through the voice of his Church, to offer up
to God prayers and sacrifices especially
Eucharistic adoration for priests.

Amen.

