

## A PRAYER FOR PRIESTS

O God, our loving Father, send forth your Holy Spirit into the hearts of those you have called to share in the ministerial Priesthood of Jesus Christ.

By the power of your Spirit, unite the hearts of all your priests more fully with the Sacred Heart of Jesus, that they may experience the tender love of Christ for themselves.

Give them a shepherd's heart, the pastoral zeal of the Good Shepherd, to reach out with compassion to all who need a shepherd's care.

May your Holy Spirit make their lives holy, that they may be able to guide others on the pathway to holiness of life.

Help them to be dedicated Stewards of the Mysteries of Christ, united with the faithful, their brother priests, their bishop, and our Holy Father, nourished by your mercy in the Sacrament of Divine Mercy, and strengthened by your love for them in the daily celebration of Holy Mass and the daily praying of the Liturgy of the Hours.

May Mary, the Mother of priests, and Saint John Vianney, the patron of priests, guide them safely on all their spiritual and pastoral journeys in this life, ever closer to Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, that they may finally and fully be united with Him, and with all the angels and saints, for all eternity, in heaven.

Amen.

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Feast of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus  
+ Most Reverend Robert J. Baker, S.T.D.  
Bishop of Birmingham in Alabama