

THURSDAY CONSECRATION PRAYER

O my Beloved Jesus,

I give and consecrate to Thee this Thursday and all the Thursdays of my life, in praise of the adorable Mystery of Thy Body and Blood, and in thanksgiving for that of the Priesthood.

Moved by Thy Holy Spirit, and full of confidence in the help of Thy Most Holy Mother, the Virgin Mary, Mother of Priests, I resolve to live each Thursday for the rest of my days here below in adoration and in reparation for priests and, especially, for those who do not adore Thee, for those who are most wounded in their souls, and for those who are exposed to the attacks of the powers of darkness. I want to remain before Thy Eucharistic Face for them and in their place; I want to draw near, in their name, to Thy open Heart, ever-flowing with the Blood and the Water that purify, heal, and sanctify all souls, but, first of all, those of Thy priests.

Let each Thursday find me close to the Sacrament of Thy Body and Blood, in adoration and reparation for the sake of all Thy priests. Make me an entirely Eucharistic soul, according to the desires of Thy Sacred Heart and the designs of Thy merciful goodness upon my life. I desire nothing else. I want to love Thee more each day; I want to be the faithful adorer of Thy Eucharistic Face and the consoling friend of Thy Sacred Heart hidden in the tabernacles of the world, where it beats, wounded by love, forgotten, forsaken, and waiting for the adoration and for the love of even one priest.
Amen.

This excerpt is taken from APOSTOLIC PENITENTIARY DECREE. Special Indulgence for the Year for Priests

"May priests commit themselves, with prayer and good works, to obtaining from Christ the Eternal High Priest, *the grace to shine with Faith, Hope, Charity and the other virtues, and show by their way of life, but also with their external conduct, that they are dedicated without reserve to the spiritual good of the people* something that the Church has always had at heart".

Above the Church offers us some specific ideas to pray for, for our priests in their external dispositions and conduct and their internal spirit through the theological virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity. We could ask Our Lord to strengthen them particularly in these needs.

This Litany below "is one that the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, has prayed many times. To say it often and with devotion fosters a deep reverence for the Priesthood of Jesus Christ. At the same time this prayer keeps us mindful of the Divine Victim who offered himself for us on Calvary and continues to do so at every Mass. That God would strengthen all priests and grant an increase in priestly vocations:

This litany ties in beautifully from the decree in asking to obtaining graces from Christ the Eternal High Priest:

Image: Christ the Great Eternal High Priest. {See below for explanation of Icon}

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The Litany of Our Lord Jesus Christ Priest and Victim - let us pray:

Lord, have mercy - *Lord, have mercy*
Christ, have mercy - *Christ, have mercy*
Lord, have mercy - *Lord, have mercy*
Christ hear us - *Christ hear us*
Christ, graciously hear us - *Christ, graciously hear us*
God the Father of heaven, **Have mercy on us*
God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
God the Holy Spirit,
Holy Trinity, One God,

Jesus, Priest and Victim, **Have mercy on us*
Jesus, Priest forever according to the Order of Melchizedek, *Have mercy on us*
Jesus, Priest Whom God sent to preach the Gospel to the poor, *Have mercy on us*
Jesus, Priest Who at the Last Supper institute the form of the eternal sacrifice, *Have mercy on us*
Jesus, Priest Who lives forever to intercede for us, *Have mercy on us*
Jesus, High Priest whom the Father anointed with the Holy Spirit and power, *Have mercy on us*
Jesus, High Priest chosen from among men, *Have mercy on us*
Jesus, made High Priest for men, *Have mercy on us*
Jesus, High Priest of our confession of faith, *Have mercy on us*
Jesus, High Priest of greater glory than Moses, *Have mercy on us*
Jesus, High Priest of the true tabernacle, *Have mercy on us*
Jesus, High Priest of the good things to come, *Have mercy on us*
Jesus, High Priest, holy, innocent and undefiled, *Have mercy on us*
Jesus, High Priest faithful and merciful, *Have mercy on us*
Jesus, High Priest inflamed with zeal for God and souls, *Have mercy on us*
Jesus, High Priest, perfect forever, *Have mercy on us*
Jesus, High Priest, Who by Your own Blood entered the heavens, *Have mercy on us*
Jesus, High Priest, who opened us a new way for us, *Have mercy on us*
Jesus, High Priest, who loved us and washed us from our sins in Your Blood, *Have mercy on us*
Jesus, High Priest, who offered Yourself to God as an oblation and sacrificial Victim, *Have mercy on us*
Jesus, sacrificial Victim of God and men, *Have mercy on us*
Jesus, holy and immaculate sacrificial Victim, *Have mercy on us*
Jesus, pleasing sacrificial Victim, *Have mercy on us*
Jesus, peace-making sacrificial Victim, *Have mercy on us*
Jesus, sacrifice of propitiation and praise, *Have mercy on us*
Jesus, sacrificial Victim of reconciliation and peace, *Have mercy on us*
Jesus, sacrificial Victim in whom we have confidence and access to God, *Have mercy on us*
Jesus, sacrificial Victim living forever and ever, *Have mercy on us*

Be merciful, *spare us, Jesus.*
Be merciful, *graciously hear us, Jesus.*

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From rashly entering the clergy, * *deliver us, Jesus*
From the sin of sacrilege,
From the spirit of incontinence,
From sordid pursuits,
From every lapse into simony,
From the unworthy administration of the Church's treasures,
From the love of the world and its vanities,
From the unworthy celebration of Your Mysteries,

Through Your eternal priesthood,
Through the holy anointing whereby You were constituted a priest by God the Father,
Through Your priestly spirit,
Through that ministry whereby You glorified Your Father on earth,
Through the bloody immolation of Yourself made once and for all upon the Cross,
Through that same sacrifice daily renewed upon the altar,
Through that divine power which You exercise invisibly in Your priests,

That You would deign to maintain the whole priestly order in holy religion, * *We beseech You, hear us*

That You would deign to provide Your people with pastors after Your own heart,
That You would deign to fill them with the spirit of Your priesthood,
That the lips of Your priests might preserve true knowledge,
That You would deign to send faithful workers into Your harvest,
That You would deign to multiply the faithful dispensers of Your Mysteries,
That You would deign to grant them perseverance in the service of Your will,
That You would deign to give them gentleness in their ministry, resourcefulness in their actions,
and constancy in prayer,
That through them You would deign to promote the veneration of the Blessed Sacrament everywhere,

That You would deign to receive into Your joy those who have served You well,

Lamb of God, Who take away the sin of the world, *spare us, O Lord*
Lamb of God, Who take away the sin of the world, *graciously hear us, O Lord*
Lamb of God, Who take away the sin of the world, *have mercy on us, O Lord*

Jesus, Our Priest, *hear us*
Jesus, Our Priest, *graciously hear us*

Let us pray:

O God, Sanctifier and Guardian of your Church, raise up in her through Your Spirit suitable and faithful dispensers of the holy Mysteries, so that by their ministry and example, the Christian people may be guided under Your protection in the path of salvation. Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

O God, who, while the disciples were worshiping and fasting, ordered Saul and Barnabas to be

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set apart for the work to which You had called them, be present now to Your Church in prayer, and You, who know the hearts of all, indicate those whom You have chosen for ministry.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

(This prayer was prayed in Latin by Pope John Paul II as a seminarian in Cracow, and often in later life as well.)

Eccl. approval for English translation: - Adam Cardinal Maida Archbishop of Detroit. Rescript of November 21, 2008

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About the Icon above: Iconographer Marek Czarnecki of Seraphic Restorations in Meriden, Connecticut, has graciously given the USCCB the rights to use the icon of *Christ the Great High Priest* during the Year for Priests. The artist allows anyone to use or reproduce the icon, as long as it is not for any commercial purpose, (i.e., it cannot be reprinted to be sold or resold, or reprinted on something that will be sold). If this is the intent, they need to contact the artist for permission to license the image, under written contract.

This icon is “based on a fifteenth century Greek prototype; here Christ is shown in Latin Rite vestments with a gold pelican over His heart, the ancient symbol of self-sacrifice. The borders contain a winding grapevine and altar prepared for the celebration of the liturgy of the Mass; in the borders are smaller icons of Melchizedek and St. Jean-Baptiste Vianney.”

What a generous gift this artist has offered to the Church. It would be nice to offer him an Ave in thanksgiving when we see this beautiful Icon.