



THE DIOCESE OF CHARLESTON

---

June 11, 2009

Dear Father,

As you are well aware, Pope Benedict XVI has designated June 19, 2009 through June 19, 2010 as the Year for Priests. This celebration begins on the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and will have an official commemoration on the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. John Vianney's death. On that day, the *Curé of Ars* will be declared the Universal Patron of all Priests by the Holy Father.

I ask all of you to pray for yourselves and for your brother priests, especially for priests serving in the Diocese of Charleston. Likewise, I ask you to encourage your people to pray for all priests, living and deceased, and that many more men might respond to God's call for priestly vocations. Please do your best to publicize the various possibilities for this year: Serra International's "Priesthood Sunday" on October 25, the indulgences offered during this year and whatever opportunities for communal prayer you might be able to offer in your parishes.

I also ask each of you, individually, to participate daily in the prayers that are enclosed with this communication. Our retreat in the fall will certainly focus on this theme of priesthood and I hope much of your spiritual reading will do so as well.

Be assured of my constant prayer for you. May we together be strengthened in our vocation by the grace of The Holy Spirit!

In His Peace,

Most Reverend Robert E. Guglielmo  
Bishop of Charleston

Office of the Bishop

119 Broad Street • Charleston, South Carolina 29401

Post Office Box 818 • Charleston, South Carolina 29402 • Phone (843) 853-2130 • Fax (843) 724-6387 • [www.catholic-doc.org](http://www.catholic-doc.org)

## MEMORANDUM

TO: All Priests  
FROM: Most Reverend Robert E. Guglielmo  
RE: Special Indulgence for Year for Priests  
DATE: June 4, 2009

---

Our Holy Father Benedict XVI has decided to establish a special Year for Priests on the occasion of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of St. John Mary Vianney, the Curé d'Ars, a shining example of the priesthood and the model Pastor faithful to the service of the people of God.

During this Year for Priests, beginning June 19, 2009, and ending on June 19, 2010, a special indulgence will be given to all priests and to all the faithful people of God:

- To the truly repentant priests who, on any day, devoutly recite at least morning Lauds or Vespers before the Blessed Sacrament, exposed for public adoration or replaced in the tabernacle, and who, after the example of St. John Mary Vianney, offer themselves with a ready and generous heart for the celebration of the Sacraments, especially Confession, are mercifully granted the Plenary Indulgence which they also may apply to their deceased brethren in suffrage, if, in conformity with current norms, they receive sacramental confession and the Eucharistic banquet and pray for the supreme Pontiff's intentions.
- The Plenary Indulgence is granted to all the faithful who are truly repentant who, in Church or Chapel, devoutly attend the divine Sacrifice of the Mass and offer prayers to Jesus Christ the Eternal High Priest, for the priests of the Church, and any other good work which they have done on that day, so that He may sanctify them and form them in accordance with His Heart, as long as they have made expiation for their sins through sacramental confession and prayed in accordance with the Supreme Pontiff's intentions.
- The Plenary Indulgence will likewise be granted to the elderly, the sick and all those who for any legitimate reasons are confined to their homes, provided they intend to fulfill the three usual conditions as soon as possible.
- Lastly, the Partial Indulgence is granted to all faithful whenever they devoutly recite five *Our Fathers* and *Hail Marys* and *Glorias*, or another expressly approved prayer, in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, to obtain that priests be persevered in purity and holiness of life.

On the Feast of St. John Mary Vianney, and, it is recommended on the first Thursday of the month, throughout the Year of the Priest that priests in charge of pastoral care publicly direct these exercises of devotion, to celebrate Holy Mass and to hear the confession of the faithful.

**Cardinal James Francis Stafford**  
May 20, 2009  
*L'Osservatore Romano*

## Prayer to Saint John Vianney

Dear Saint John Vianney,

Your childhood dream was to be a priest,  
to win souls for God.  
You endured years of toil and humiliation  
to attain the priesthood.  
You became a priest  
truly after God's own heart,  
outstanding in humility and poverty;  
prayer and mortification;  
totally devoted to the service  
of God's people.



The Church has exalted you as model  
and patron saint of all parish priests,  
trusting that your example and prayers will help them  
to live up to the high dignity of their vocation,  
to be faithful servants of God's people,  
to be perfect imitators of Christ the Saviour,  
who came not to be served but to serve,  
to give His life in ransom for many.

Pray that God may give to His Church today  
many more priests after His own heart.  
Pray for all the priests under your patronage,  
that they may be worthy representatives of  
Christ the Good Shepherd.

May they wholeheartedly devote themselves  
to prayer and penance;  
be examples of humility and poverty;  
shining models of holiness;  
tireless and powerful preachers of the Word of God;  
zealous dispensers of God's grace in the Sacraments.

May their loving devotion to Jesus in the Eucharist  
and to Mary His Mother be the twin fountains  
of fruitfulness for their ministry.  
*Amen.*

## A PRIESTLY FRATERNITY PRAYER RULE for the clergy of the Diocese of Charleston

YEAR OF THE PRIEST  
June 19, 2009 ~ June 19, 2010

We commit ourselves individually and as a fraternity of  
priests, dedicated to serving the Diocese of Charleston, to  
recite this Prayer Rule each day during the Year of the Priest  
proclaimed by our Holy Father Benedict XVI.

In this way, we strengthen our own ministry and that of  
our brother priests to faithfully live out the vocation to which  
our Lord has called us.

We promise to care for each other and work together with  
our bishop, Most Rev. Robert E. Guglielmone, to strengthen  
the faith among those we serve.

### *The Litany of the Sacred Heart*

Lord, have mercy on us.  
Christ, have mercy on us.  
Lord, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy on us.  
Christ, hear us.  
Christ, graciously hear us.

God, the Father of heaven,  
R. Have mercy on us.  
(after each of the following)

God the Son,  
Redeemer of the world,

God, the Holy Spirit,  
Holy Trinity, One God,  
Heart of Jesus,  
    Son of the Eternal Father,  
Heart of Jesus,  
    formed by the Holy Spirit in  
    the womb of the Virgin Mother,  
Heart of Jesus,  
    substantially united to the  
    Word of God,  
Heart of Jesus,  
    of Infinite Majesty,  
Heart of Jesus,  
    Sacred Temple of God,

Heart of Jesus,  
Tabernacle of the Most High,  
Heart of Jesus,  
House of God and  
Gate of Heaven,  
Heart of Jesus,  
burning furnace of charity,  
Heart of Jesus,  
abode of justice and love,  
Heart of Jesus,  
full of goodness and love,  
Heart of Jesus,  
abyss of all virtues,  
Heart of Jesus,  
most worthy of all praise,  
Heart of Jesus,  
king and center of all hearts,  
Heart of Jesus,  
in whom are all treasures  
of wisdom and knowledge,  
Heart of Jesus,  
in whom dwells the fullness  
of divinity,  
Heart of Jesus,  
in whom the Father was well  
pleased,  
Heart of Jesus,  
of whose fullness we have all  
received,  
Heart of Jesus,  
desire of the everlasting hills,  
Heart of Jesus,  
patient and most merciful,  
Heart of Jesus,  
enriching all who invoke Thee,  
Heart of Jesus,  
fountain of life and holiness,  
Heart of Jesus,  
propitiation for our sins,

Heart of Jesus,  
loaded down with opprobrium,  
Heart of Jesus,  
bruised for our offenses,  
Heart of Jesus,  
obedient to death,  
Heart of Jesus,  
pierced with a lance,  
Heart of Jesus,  
source of all consolation,  
Heart of Jesus,  
our life and resurrection,  
Heart of Jesus,  
our peace and our reconciliation,  
Heart of Jesus,  
victim for our sins  
Heart of Jesus,  
salvation of those who trust  
in Thee,  
Heart of Jesus,  
hope of those who die in Thee,  
Heart of Jesus,  
delight of all the saints,  
Lamb of God, who takes away  
the sins of the world,  
R. Spare us, O Lord!  
Lamb of God, who takes away  
the sins of the world,  
R. Graciously hear us, O Lord!  
Lamb of God, who takes away  
the sins of the world,  
R. Have mercy on us.  
Christ, hear us,  
Christ, graciously hear us  
Lord Jesus, hear our prayer.

Lord, have mercy on us.  
Christ, have mercy on us.  
Lord, have mercy on us.

*Let us pray.*

**A**lmighty and eternal God,  
look upon the Heart of Your  
most beloved Son and upon the  
praises and satisfaction which He  
offers You in the name of sinners;  
and to those who implore Your  
mercy, in Your great goodness,  
grant forgiveness in the name of  
the same Jesus Christ, Your Son,  
who lives and reigns with You and  
the Holy Spirit forever and ever.  
*Amen.*

**O** God, our heavenly Father, who  
loves mankind and are a most  
merciful and compassionate God,  
have mercy on us, Your servants, the  
clergy of the Diocese of Charleston.  
We humbly pray to You to care for  
us and protect us, O God.

Be our guide and guardian in  
all our endeavors. Lead us in the  
path of Your truth, and draw us  
nearer to You, so that we may lead  
godly and righteous lives in Your  
love as we do Your will in all  
things.

Give us Your grace and  
mercy so that we may be patient,  
hardworking, tireless, devout and  
charitable, showing Your love to all

those entrusted to our pastoral care.

Defend us against the  
assaults of the enemy, and grant  
us wisdom and strength to resist  
all temptation and corruption.

Have mercy and give rest  
to the souls of those faithful  
servants, the priests of this  
diocese, who have gone before us.

Strengthen us, O Lord, and  
draw us closer together in a com-  
panionship of evangelism, devo-  
tion and joyous celebration of  
Your Holy Sacraments. Direct us  
in the way of salvation, through  
the goodness of Your Son, our  
Savior Jesus Christ, and the  
prayers of His Holy Mother and  
the blessed saints.

*Amen.*

*—Adapted from a Byzantine prayer*

## *Memorare*

**R**emember, O most gracious  
Virgin Mary, that never was  
it known that anyone who fled  
to thy protection, implored thy  
help, or sought thy intercession,  
was left unaided. Inspired with  
this confidence, I fly unto thee,  
O Virgin of virgins, my Mother!  
To thee I come; before thee I  
stand, sinful and sorrowful. O  
Mother of the Word Incarnate,  
despise not my petitions, but in  
thy mercy hear and answer me.  
*Amen.*