



## Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

Office of Worship

David Wood, Director  
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**To:** Pastors and Bulletin Editors  
**From:** David Wood  
**Date:** 6/17/2009  
**Re:** Year for Priests – Mass, Indulgences and Other Materials

Please announce and/or place in bulletin for June 20-21, 2009

**Opening of the Year for Priests**  
19 June 2009 to 19 June 2010

**Mass in Celebration of the Year for Priests  
and the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Bp Vasquez**

Bp Joe Vasquez, principal celebrant  
Daniel Cardinal DiNardo, presiding  
Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart  
June 23, 2009, 5:30 p.m.

A plenary indulgence is granted to the faithful who participate in this Mass and fulfill the necessary requirements. Information on the indulgence and requirements is online at <http://usccb.org/yearforpriests/indulgences.shtml>.

See the USCCB website for more useful materials <http://usccb.org/yearforpriests/index.shtml>.

### Indulgences for Priests

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 in God the *Plenary Indulgence* which they may also apply to their deceased brethren in suffrage, if, in conformity with the current norms, they receive sacramental confession and the Eucharistic banquet and pray for the Supreme Pontiff's intentions.

Furthermore the *Partial Indulgence* is granted to priests who may apply it to their deceased confreres every time that they devoutly recite the prayers duly approved to lead a holy life and to carry out in a holy manner the offices entrusted to them.

### Plenary Indulgence for the Faithful

The *Plenary Indulgence* is granted to all the faithful who are truly repentant who, in church or in chapel, devoutly attend the divine Sacrifice of 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: on the days in which the Year for Priests begins and ends, on the day of the 150th anniversary of the pious passing of St John Mary Vianney, on the first Thursday of the month or on any other day established by the local Ordinaries for the benefit of the faithful.



It will be most appropriate, in cathedral and parish churches, for the same priests who are in charge of pastoral care to publicly direct these exercises of devotion, to celebrate Holy Mass and to hear the confession of the faithful.

### **Plenary Indulgence for the Elderly and Sick Faithful**

The *Plenary Indulgence* will likewise be granted to the elderly, the sick and all those who for any legitimate reason are confined to their homes who, with a mind detached from any sin and with the intention of fulfilling as soon as possible the three usual conditions, at home or wherever their impediment detains them, provided that on the above-mentioned days they recite prayers for the sanctification of priests and confidently offer the illnesses and hardships of their lives to God through Mary Queen of Apostles.

### **Partial Indulgence**

Lastly, the *Partial Indulgence* is granted to all the faithful every time they devoutly recite five *Our Fathers*, *Hail Marys* and *Glorias*, or another expressly approved prayer, in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, to obtain that priests be preserved in purity and holiness of life.

#### *Summary and excerpts from Pope Benedict XVI's announcement:*

In order to support the tendency of priests towards spiritual perfection, upon which the effectiveness of their ministry principally depends, Pope Benedict XVI has called for a special 'Year for Priests' which will run from 19 June 2009 to 19 June 2010." Pope Benedict highlighted the "indispensable struggle for moral perfection which must dwell in every truly priestly heart."

This year marks "the 150th anniversary of the death of the saintly 'Cure of Ars', Jean Marie Vianney, a true example of a pastor at the service of Christ's flock". "The missionary dimension of a priest arises from his sacramental configuration to Christ the Head." This involves "total adherence to what ecclesial tradition has identified as '*apostolica vivendi forma*', which consists in participation ... in that 'new way of life' which was inaugurated by the Lord Jesus and which the Apostles made their own".

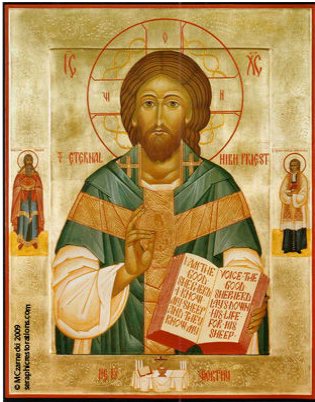
"The ecclesial, communal, hierarchical and doctrinal dimension is absolutely indispensable for any authentic mission, and this alone guarantees its spiritual effectiveness."

- 'Ecclesial because no-one announces or brings themselves, ...but brings Another, God Himself, to the world. God is the only wealth that, definitively, mankind wishes to find in a priest.
- 'Communal' because it takes place in a unity and communion which only at a secondary level possess important aspects of social visibility....
- 'Hierarchical' and 'doctrinal' dimensions emphasize the importance of ecclesiastical discipline (a term related to that of 'disciple') and of doctrinal (not just theological, initial and permanent) formation".

Priests must be "present, identifiable and recognizable - for their judgment of faith, personal virtues and attire - in the fields of culture and of charity which have always been at the heart of the Church's mission".

Pope Benedict's announcement in Spanish and English, the full text of the indulgences, prayers and other resources are found at [www.usccb.org/yearforpriests/index.shtml](http://www.usccb.org/yearforpriests/index.shtml).

A very helpful explanation of indulgences and their relationship to grace and sin is found in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, at numbers 1471–1484 (Part II, Section Two, Chapter 2, Art. 4. X, see [www.usccb.org/catechism/text](http://www.usccb.org/catechism/text)). A summary is found at number 1498.



A color 18" by 24" poster suitable for framing of the original icon **"Christ the High Priest"** created by Marek Czarnecki for the **Year for Priests - June 19, 2009 – June 19, 2010**, will be on sale following the Mass on June 23 for \$15.00.