

Guidelines for the “Year for Priests Letters of Appreciation Project”

Local Coordinator: Parish Youth Directors/Youth Leaders

Diocesan Coordinator: Ray Hollcraft

Project Volunteer: Lee Walski (contact for questions)
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Objective: With the support of the youth, collect as many cards/letters of appreciation for our diocesan priests as you can from your parishioners.

The Full Meal Deal:

(consider doing the entire program or adapting it to meet the needs of your church community)

1. **Jan. 30-31:** Bulletin announcement #1, pulpit announcement #1
2. **Feb. 1-28:** provide a large basket in the church to collect cards that are brought in. Encourage people to place only the name of the priest on the envelope of each card they submit. All cards will be mailed to the diocese the first week of March and the diocese will ensure the cards will be available at the Priests' Days in April.
3. **Feb. 6-7:** Bulletin announcement #2, pulpit announcement #2
4. **Feb. 13-14:** Bulletin announcement #3, pulpit announcement #3
5. **Feb. 20-21:** Bulletin announcement #4, pulpit announcement #4,
Provide a table with cards/stationary/pens/envelops following Mass
6. **Feb. 27-28:** Bulletin announcement #5, pulpit announcement #5
table with cards/stationary/pens/envelops are available following Mass

7. **Sunday, Feb. 28:** Youth Director/Leader collects all parish cards, places them in a box/envelope, and mails them to the following address NLT March 5, 2010:

**Diocese of Crookston
Year for Priests
Attn: Ray Hollcraft
P.O. Box 610
Crookston, MN 56716**

Additional ideas to consider:

School/Religious Education Classes: Encourage School or Religious Education teachers to have their students write letters or draw pictures of appreciation for their parish priest(s) or priests they know. (See flyer)

Parish Group Support: Petition parish groups (Ladies Guild, Knights of Columbus, Respect for Life groups, Daughters of America, etc.) to provide financial support to purchase a variety of writing materials (cards, note paper, envelopes, pens) to be used on the weekends of Feb. 20-21 and Feb. 27-28.

Youth Night: At a February youth night, talk about the Year for Priests/St. John Vianney/gift of the priesthood. Place the names of all our diocesan priests in a bowl/hat and have each teen draw a name and make a card or write a letter of appreciation to that priest. If time allows, let them write or make more than one letter or card. Provided a variety of materials: markers, crayons, colored paper, design scissors, design punches, glue, pens, colored pencils, glitter, paint, etc.

Parish Wide Card Campaign: choose both or one Sunday (Feb. 20-21 and/or Feb. 27-28) to have a letter/note writing campaign for all those people who did not get a chance to submit a letter. Provide coffee/donuts (or a meal) following Mass to keep people around. Set up a table with cards/stationary, envelopes and pens and space to sit down and write. Have volunteers available to guide people and collect the finished cards.