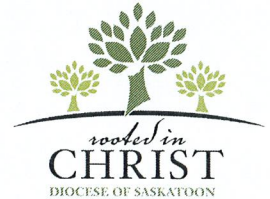




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May 29, 2018

World Day of Prayer for the Sanctification of Priests June 8, 2018

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I invite you all to join me and others around the world in marking the World Day of Prayer for the Sanctification of Priests, to be celebrated Friday, June 8 on the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. This celebration offers an opportunity to lift up our priests in prayer and thanksgiving, asking God that they might continually rediscover the gift of their ordination and experience the joy of the mission entrusted to them, while always growing in sanctity.


In his recent Apostolic Exhortation, *Gaudete et Exsultate*, our Holy Father Pope Francis speaks about the universal vocation to holiness in different states of life, affirming that it involves “a habitual openness to the transcendent, expressed in prayer and adoration.” (#147) In this context, the Congregation for the Clergy at the Vatican has proposed that the World Day of Prayer for the Sanctification of Priests include a reflection on the evangelical message of the Transfiguration, focusing on the experience of the Apostles Peter, James and John in their encounter with the luminous face of Our Lord Jesus Christ on Mount Tabor.

In *Gaudete et Exsultate*, Pope Francis says: “We are inspired to act by the example of all those priests, religious, and laity who devote themselves to proclamation and to serving others with great fidelity, often at the risk of their lives and certainly at the cost of their comfort. Their testimony reminds us that, more than bureaucrats and functionaries, the Church needs passionate missionaries, enthusiastic about sharing true life.” (#138)

Please join me in praying for our priests on June 8 in your homes and parishes. May our Father God bless each of our priests in their ministry, and may the Holy Spirit continually form them to live and serve as Our Lord Jesus Christ lived and served.

Sincerely in Christ,

✠ Most Reverend Mark A. Hagemoen
Bishop of Saskatoon

 In all things we are *rooted in Christ*,
in His desire to bring God's love to all peoples.