



Resources

Website:
http://www.vatican.va/special/anno_sac/index_en.html

Priesthood and Diaconate,
Gerhard Muller, Ignatius Press

The Spiritual Life, A. Tanquerry

The Spiritual Combat, Lorenzo Scupoli

The Priest the Man of God, St. Joseph Cafasso

For College and High School:

The Confessions of St. Augustine

Epistle of St. Barnabas

Letter of the Shepherd of Hermas

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St. Pius X – The Farm Boy Who Became Pope, Walter Diethelm

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Saint Cyril of Jerusalem

Cyril of Jerusalem was given to the study of the Holy Scriptures from childhood, and made such progress that he became an eminent champion of the orthodox faith. He embraced the monastic institute and bound himself to perpetual chastity and austerity of life. He was ordained priest by St. Maximus, Patriarch of Jerusalem, and undertook the work of preaching to the faithful and instructing the catechumens, in which he won the praise of all. He was the author of those truly wonderful *Catechetical Instructions*, which embrace clearly and fully all the teaching of the Church, and contain an excellent defense of each of the dogmas of religion against the enemies of the faith. His treatment of these subjects is so distinct and clear that he refuted



Saint Cyril of Jerusalem, Father, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

not only the heresies of his own time, but also, by a kind of fore-knowledge, as it were, those which were to arise later. Thus, he maintains the Real Presence

Feast Day — March 18

of the Body and Blood of Christ in the adorable sacrament of the Altar.

On the death of Patriarch St. Maximus, the bishops of the province chose Cyril in his place. As Bishop he endured, like blessed Athanasius, his contemporary, many wrongs and sufferings for the sake of the faith at the hands of the Arians. They could not bear his strenuous opposition to their heresy, and thus assailed him with calumnies, deposed him in a pseudo-council and drove him from his see. To escape their rage, he fled to Tarsus in Cilicia and, as long as Constantius lived, he bore the hardships of exile. On the death of Constantius and the accession of Julian the Apostate, Cyril was able to return to Jerusalem, where he set himself with burning zeal to deliver his flock from false doctrine and from sin.

He was driven into exile a second time, under the Emperor Valens, but when peace was restored to the Church

Role of the Priest: Teaching, Sanctifying and Governing – Part II

The threefold functions (*munera*) of the bishop of teaching, sanctifying and governing extends to the priesthood. These three functions make up one office and as such are not to be separated nor ever completely delegated or relegated, but always under the direction, guidance and care of the bishop and his priests.



Priest as Sanctifier

The Judeo-Christian tradition is

“cultic” in its nature. “Cultic” religions, by definition, rely on priests to mediate between

God and humanity. In fact the term priest is used over 850 times in both the Old and New Testaments combined. Christ is referred to as the High Priest in the Letter to the Hebrews. As our High Priest and Mediator, Christ taught us how to pray, giving us the Lord’s Prayer and most importantly instituting the Most Holy Eucharist. In the Catholic Church the priest acts as the mediator for the community serving as an *alter Christus*, another Christ. Regarding the priest’s role of sanctifier The Code of Canon Law states the following:

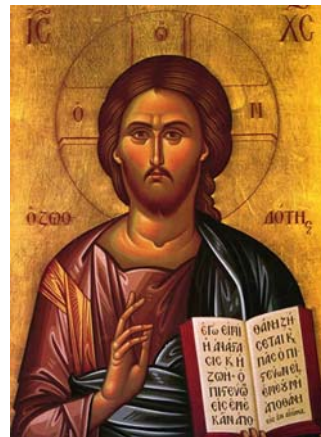
Prayer for Priests

A Prayer Before the Blessed Sacrament for the Increase of Priestly and Religious Vocations
(by Archbishop Justin Rigali, St. Louis)

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Eternal Father, Son of the Virgin Mary, we thank you for offering your life in sacrifice on the Cross, and for renewing this sacrifice in every Mass celebrated throughout the world.

In the power of the Holy Spirit we adore you and proclaim your living presence in the Eucharist. We desire to imitate the love you show us in your death and resurrection, by loving and serving one another.

We ask you to call many young people to religious life, and to provide the holy and generous priests that are so need in your Church today. Lord Jesus, hear our prayer. Amen.



Priests as Sanctifier—Cont'd.

Canon 218—§ 2 ...the Christian faithful are nourished through a devout celebration of the sacraments and especially that they frequently approach the sacrament of the Most Holy Eucharist and the sacrament of penance; he is likewise to endeavor that they are brought to the practice of family prayer as well as to a knowing and active participation in the sacred liturgy, which the pastor must supervise in his parish under the authority of the diocesan bishop, being vigilant lest any abuses creep in.

community and a sign of encouragement to the community. This personal com-



Like other realities, true love is contagious, it is a reality that spreads and grows. Love of and for holiness, when authentic, is contagious. This dynamic expression is also best when it is reciprocal. The faithful can and often do inspire greater love for and commitment to sanctity in the lives of priests. In a recent letter to priests Cardinal Cláudio Hummes, Prefect of the Congregation for the Clergy wrote, "It is for this reason that the Priest, if he is to remain faithful to Christ and faithful to the community, must be a man of prayer, a man who lives close to the Lord. Moreover, he needs to be strengthened by the prayer of the Church and of every Christian. Let the sheep pray for their shepherd!"

mitment to holiness is also the source for him to encourage and lead the faithful on their personal journeys of sanctity. From the priest's love and devotion to the Eucharist and sacraments the faithful are encouraged toward frequent and active participation in the sacraments.

Therefore, priests and laity alike should heed the word of I.T. Hecker, author of *The Church and the Ages*, as he wrote: "The Holy Spirit is the immediate guide of the soul in the way of salvation and sanctification; and the criterion, or test, that the soul is guided by the Holy Spirit, is its ready obedience to the authority of the Church."

"Our actions have a tongue of their own; they have an eloquence of their own, even when the tongue is silent. For deeds prove the lover more than words."

--Saint Cyril of Jerusalem





Saint Cyril of Jerusalem—Cont'd.

by Theodosius the Great, and the cruelty and insolence of the Arians were restrained, he was received with honor by the Emperor as a valiant soldier of Christ and restored to his see. With what earnestness and holiness he fulfilled the duties of his exalted office was proved by the flourishing state of

of the Church at Jerusalem, as described by St. Basil, who spent some time there on a pilgrimage to the holy places. Tradition states that God rendered the holiness of this venerable Patriarch illustrious by signs from heaven, among which is numbered the apparition of a cross, brighter than the sun, which was seen at the beginning of his Patriarchate. Not only Cyril himself, but pagans and Christians alike were witnesses of this marvel which Cyril, after having given thanks to God in church, announced by letter to Constantius.

A thing no less wonderful came to pass when the Jews were commanded by the impious Emperor Julian to restore the Temple which had been destroyed by Titus. An earthquake arose and great balls of fire broke out of the earth and consumed the work, so that Julian and the Jews were struck with terror and gave up their plan. This had been clearly foretold by Cyril. A little while before his death, he was present at the Ecumenical Council at Constantinople, where the heresies of Macedonius and Arius were condemned. After his return to Jerusalem, he died a holy death at sixty-nine.

"Since He Himself has declared and said of the bread: This is My Body, who shall dare to doubt any more? And when He asserts and says: This is My Blood, who shall ever hesitate and say it is not His Blood?" St. Cyril of Jerusalem

The Priests Who Built Belmont Abbey

The growth of the Catholic Church in western North Carolina is owed in a very large part to the men who established what is now known as Belmont Abbey, a debt of gratitude should be paid by all Catholics, young and old, to the men of this important chapter of American history.

In 1872, Rev. Jeremiah O'Connell, a missionary priest who was pastor of historic St. Joseph Church in Mt. Holly, bought the 500 acre estate known as the Caldwell Farm. He subsequently writes Bishop (later Cardinal) Gibbons of Richmond, VA, who also served as Vicar Apostolic of North Carolina, and offers the land for use as religious and educational purposes. Word of this acquisition of land

made it to Fr. Herman Wolfe, OSB of the Benedictine monks of St. Vincent Abbey (Pennsylvania) who in 1875 inspected the land and recommended its use for a future monastery. On January 19, 1876, the Benedictine Monks at St. Vincent Abbey accepted the land.

Later that year Fr. Herman Wolfe, OSB with two students from Richmond arrived to take possession of the property, which was named Maria Stein. Four Benedictine Lay Brothers arrived afterwards to assist at the farm. That autumn Brother Phillip Cassidy, OSB came to become "Prefect of Studies." He was the one and only professor. His students were the original two students who arrived with Fr. Herman as well as two boys from Charlotte. In March of 1877, Fr. Joseph Keller, OSB was sent to the

new monastery to begin missionary activities. The Benedictines became the primary missionaries in North Carolina, traveling throughout the state to build chapels, start new missions and nurture those already existing. Priests from Belmont Abbey served no less than 20 different missions and churches throughout the State. Monks from the Abbey were the founding pastors of at least 12 churches and missions in North Carolina including St. James, Concord, St. Michael's, Gastonia, St. Benedict's, Greensboro, and St. John the Baptist in Tryon.



Original Abbey

Diocesan Seminarian, Noah Carter, Reflects

At seven years old, I knew I wanted to be a priest. I knew God's plan because he spoke through the actions and inspiration of the priests in my life. Through middle and high school, I was surrounded at retreats, parish missions, and conventions with young, heroic, inspirational priests. God spoke to my heart through their conviction and joy. Fourteen years after hearing God's call, I have completed four years of undergraduate seminary and will

continue on in graduate studies for four more years of seminary before I join the ranks of those men who have inspired me since I was a child.

This Year for Priests means so much to the whole Church, but it certainly takes on a special meaning in the hearts of seminarians. During this year, priests have not been the only ones getting attention. Grateful seminarians are receiving spiritual bouquets, cards, letters, and support from the faithful in the Diocese of Charlotte. Young people are writing back and forth to seminarians that their classes have

have adopted at school. Families are adopting seminarians and praying for them, sometimes without the seminarian even knowing. All the graces from the support and prayers are bearing fruit, though.

I am proud to have close to 100 priests in the Diocese of Charlotte as fathers and mentors. I am proud to study with 17 other men who will one day return and join brother priests to serve the faithful in the diocese. As a seminarian, this Year for Priests has strengthened my vocation,



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† March 18, 2010

† May 13, 2010

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Western North Carolina**

Important Dates for the Year for Priests



- 2 March 2010**—Feast of St. Chad, Bishop
- 5 March 2010**--Feast of St. John of the Cross,
Priest
- 8 March 2010**-Feast of St. Quintilis, Bishop
and Martyr
- 13 March 2010**—Feast of St. Roderic, Priest
- 17 March 2010**—Feast of St. Paterick, Bishop
- 18 March 2010**—Feast of St Cyril of Jerusa
lem, Bishop
- 19 March 2010**—Feast of St. Joseph, Husband
of the Blessed Virgin
Mary
- 25 March 2010**—Feast of the Annunciation of
the Lord to Mary
- 26 March 2010**—Feast of St. Braulio, Bishop
- 27 March 2010**—Feast of St. Rupert, Bishop
- 28 March 2010**—Palm Sunday of the Lord's
Passion
- 29 March 2010**—Feast of St. Ludolph, Bishop
- 31 March 2010**—Feast f St. Renovatus, Bishop



Seminarian Carter —Cont.'d

for it has brought the overwhelming support for
clergy in the diocese to the forefront. Recipro-
cally, the faithful should be inspired that the
priests' love for the faithful has grown, too.
Young men will be inspired, as I was, by the
meaning of the priesthood of Jesus Christ in
such a way that they will rise up and join the
army of heroes who spend and consume them-
selves for souls. This is the Year for Priests; this
is the year of renewal.



**Jesus, Eternal Priest, Our
Food, Our Medicine and Our
Comfort!**

