

LAY FAST FOR PRIESTS – 14 OCTOBER 2006
NATIONAL SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF LA SALETTE,
ATTLEBORO, MASSACHUSETTS

“ Would that today you might fast so as to make your voice heard on high, this is the fasting that I wish which will release those bound unjustly and untie the thongs of the yoke. It will set free the oppressed. Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your wounds shall quickly be healed; your vindication shall go before you and the glory of the Lord shall be your rearguard. Then you shall call and the Lord will answer, you shall cry for help and He will say: Here I am!” *(adapted from Isaiah 59: 6-14)*

It's been three weeks since we began to invite the faithful to join us in this Fast for Priests and Religious. The team involved in the Fast translated information sheets into different languages, posted the Fast on the internet. Many signed up. An information pack advising the La Salette communities about this event was sent worldwide. We have had many "Thank Yous" from Canada, Argentina as well as Connecticut, New Hampshire, Texas, New York and here in Attleboro. One priest wrote to tell us how delighted he is to be involved in this fast today more than any other day – today is the anniversary of his ordination! Another priest from Argentina asked that the names of the following young men be read out at this benediction before the Blessed Sacrament because they are all considering joining the community: Luis, Ariel, Arnando, Juan Carlos, Norman and Marcello. Most members of the communities that contacted us have joined in the Fast for their brothers and fellow priests.

Although we have had 124 sign up sheets filled out and placed in the basket which is now on the altar, this number does not reflect the actual total. The enclosed order of nuns at Mount St Mary's Abbey in Wrentham have prayed with us today. Many people have taken the sign up sheets and have posted them in other churches all the way to Waltham to London in England. Neighbors have shared them and those who can't leave their homes because of illness, whom I call our "Homebound Missionaries" have also joined this Day of Fast. We can't estimate the actual number of souls involved, but we do know that heaven has indeed been stormed with prayer today; that Our Lady has blessed us and great good will come from it.