

THIRTEENTH, ANNUAL, GLOBAL

LAY FAST FOR PRIESTS

"Prayer united with sacrifice is the most powerful force in human history..." – Saint John Paul the Great

St. John Vianney, patron Saint of priests, once said:

"O, how great is the priests! If he realized what he is, he would die... **God obeys him!** The priest utters a few words and the Lord God descends from Heaven at his voice, to be contained within a small Host.

Without the Sacrament of Holy Orders, without a priest, we would not have the Lord.

Who welcomes your soul at the beginning of life? ... **the priest.**

Who feeds your soul and gives it strength for the journey? ... **the priest.**

Who will prepare your soul to appear before God, bathing it one last time in the Blood of Jesus Christ at your last Confession? ... **the priest.**

Always the priest. Ipse Christus. This is Christ. After God, the priest is everything. Only in Heaven will the priest fully realize what he is. **The priesthood is the love of the heart of Jesus."**

This is the thirteenth year of the global Lay Fast for Priests. The patroness of the Lay Fast is St. Therese of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face and this year, she has caused hundreds of thousands of Catholic faithful from more than half of the world's countries to unite as the Body of Christ, to make known their deep love of **the Most Holy Eucharist** and their passion and willingness to sacrifice for these men, priests, whose voice the Lord obeys and whose hands give the Lord to us in Holy Communion.

During recent days, it has been difficult to track the volume of names who have logged on to tell us they are fasting with us. On Tuesday, for example, 13741 people joined us with their promise to offer their sacrificial fast for all priests. There have been many days like Tuesday. Here is a sample of some of the sacrifices offered by some of our brothers and sisters for priests:

Rene from France – "no cell phone use today"

Lou from the Philippines - "no skateboarding"

Brad from California – "I will work to and from work today for priests"

Otila Assise from Nigeria – "I will give up my pocket money today"

Jenny from South Africa, Boris from Kazakhstan, Sassogbon from Rwanda, Christina from Phnom Penh in Vietnam, Vlad from Azerbaijan, Luz from New Hampshire USA, Celeste from North Attleboro Massachusetts USA... and hundreds of thousands more of us who are united in our plea to Heaven for hearts of priests to be pure and holy ... **to be Christ to us.**

We look forward to being united in prayer and sacrifice again with all of our Catholic brothers and sisters throughout the world on OCTOBER 19, 2019 for the fourteenth, annual, global Lay Fast for Priests.

Until then, we will see you in the Most Holy Eucharist.

~ Anna and the Lay Fast for Priests Team
Saturday, 20 October 2018

CLOSING REMARKS