

*Host or designated reader/leader begins the Upper Room prayer hour by reading this message from Fr. David:*

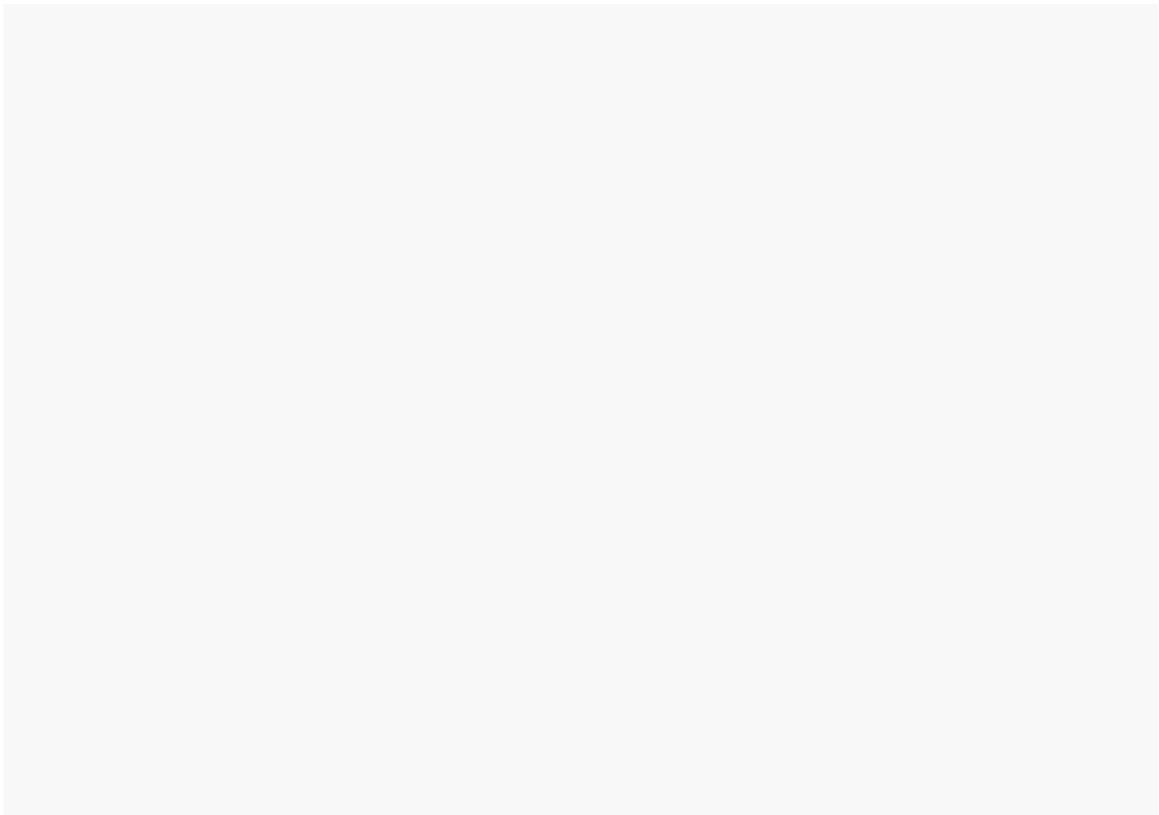
### **Message for November**

Dear friends in Christ:

This month's Upper Room focus is on *Praying for Priests*. I am using a simple way to teach about this very important thing. I am taking three prayers, written by three of my favorite Saints (none of whom are Priests) and you will first read these prayers and then analyze, study and discuss them together.

In Christ;

Fr. David



## Prayer for priests by St. Teresa of Calcutta

Mary, mother of Jesus, throw your mantle of purity over our priests. Protect them, guide them and keep them in your heart. Be a mother to them especially in times of discouragement and loneliness. Love them and let them belong completely to Jesus.

Like Jesus, they too are your sons, so keep their hearts pure and virginal. Keep their minds filled with Jesus, and put Jesus always on their lips, so that is the one they offer to sinners and to all they meet.

Mary, mother of Jesus, be their mother, loving them and bringing them joy. Take special care of sick and dying priests and the ones most tempted. Remember how they spent their youth and old age, their entire lives serving and giving all to Jesus.

Mary, bless them and keep a special place for them in your heart. Give them a piece of your heart, so beautiful and pure and immaculate, so full of love and humility so that they, too, may grow in the likeness of Christ. Dear Mary, make them humble like you and holy like Jesus.  
Amen

- 1) The focus of this prayer is on who?
- 2) Why is she so important to Priests do you think?
- 3) Another important factor in this prayer is purity and virginity. Why is this such an important virtue for the Priesthood?
- 4) What is your favorite part or sentiment of this prayer?

## The Daily Prayer for Priests by St. Therese of the Child Jesus

O Jesus, I pray for your faithful and fervent priests;

- for your unfaithful and tepid priests;
- for your priests laboring at home or abroad in distant mission fields.
- for your tempted priests;
- for your lonely and desolate priests;
- for your young priests;
- for your dying priests;
- for the souls of your priests in Purgatory.

But above all, I recommend to you the priests dearest to me:

- the priest who baptized me;
- the priests who absolved me from my sins;
- the priests at whose Masses I assisted and who gave me Your Body and Blood in Holy Communion;
- the priests who taught and instructed me;
- all the priests to whom I am indebted in any other way

O Jesus, keep them all close to your heart, and bless them abundantly in time and in eternity.

Amen.

- 1) The focus of this prayer is on who?
- 2) Why is Jesus so important to Priests do you think?
- 3) Another important factor in this prayer is all the activity and life stages of the Priest. Why is this such an important awareness for the Little Flower? (hint: what is her major doctrine or contribution to the Church?)
- 4) What is your favorite part or sentiment of this prayer?

## Prayer for Priests by St. Teresa of Avila

O my Most Sweet Jesus, O Jesus, Eternal High Priest, keep Thy priests in the shelter of Thy Sacred Heart, where no one can hurt them. Keep their anointed hands unsullied, which daily handle Thy Sacred Body. Keep pure the lips which are reddened with Thy Precious Blood. Keep pure and unworldly their hearts which are sealed with the sublime token of Thy glorious priesthood. Cause them to grow in love and loyalty to Thee and protect them from the contamination of the world. With their power of transforming bread and wine, give them the power of transforming hearts. Bless their work with rich fruit and grant them one day the crown of eternal life. Amen.

- 1) I think there are two major themes to this prayer. What are they?
- 2) "Protecting from the world" is this something you think about or want for your priests? What does that mean to you?
- 3) Do you feel more compelled to pray for me and for the priests of the world having examined these three prayers?
- 4) Which one would you use in your daily prayer life?

**Please pray a rosary (scriptural if you have that) for me and for all the Priests of the World.**

*The topic for next month's **Upper Room** is on the meaning of Christmas*