

Third Day
October 15th

Good Shepherd

Preparatory Reading:

“Through the ancient and evocative sacramental rite of the laying-on of hands and the prayer of consecration, you will become priests in order to be servants of the Christian people in a new and more profound way, in the image of the Good Shepherd. You will share in Christ's own mission, scattering freely the seed of God's word. The Lord has called you to be ministers of his mercy and dispensers of his mysteries. [...] Indeed, throughout history Christ's mission is extended through the work of the Shepherds to whom he entrusts the care of his flock. [...] [The call to the priesthood] starts with a dialogue of love, which day after day molds the priest's personality through a formation process begun in the family, continued in the seminary, and extended throughout his life. Only through this uninterrupted ascetical and pastoral journey can the priest become a living icon of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, who gives himself for the flock entrusted to his care.”¹

Let us remember his letter to priests for Holy Thursday in 2005, written days before he died.

“For us, the words of institution must be more than a formula of consecration: they must be a ‘formula of life’...

At every Mass we remember and relive the first sentiment expressed by Jesus as he broke the bread: that of *thanksgiving*....but the gifts we have received are so great that we cannot fail to sing from the depths of our hearts our own *Magnificat*....

Christ's self-giving, which has its origin in the Trinitarian life of the God who is Love, reaches its culmination in the sacrifice of the Cross, sacramentally anticipated in the Last Supper. It is impossible to repeat the words of consecration without *feeling oneself caught up in this spiritual movement*. In a certain sense, when he says the words: *take and eat*, the priest must learn to apply them also to himself, and to speak them with truth and generosity. If he is able to offer himself

¹ SAINT JOHN PAUL II, *Homily from Good Shepherd Sunday* (04/25/1999).

as a gift, placing himself at the disposal of the community and at the service of anyone in need...

*A 'Eucharistic' life at the school of Mary: [In] the contemplation of the face of Christ... I have pointed to Mary as our great teacher. In the *Encyclical on the Eucharist* I then spoke of her as the 'Woman of the Eucharist' (cf. n. 53). Who more than Mary can help us taste the greatness of the Eucharistic mystery? She more than anyone can teach us how to celebrate the sacred mysteries with due fervor and to commune with her Son, hidden in the Eucharist."*²

Prayer:

Eternal God, who in your divine providence have given us Saint John Paul II as example and guide, grant that we may be grateful for this gift by being faithful to his magisterium, by living his teachings and by entrusting our prayers to his intercession.

May he, who in union with the bishops of the whole world consecrated the Church and the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, obtain for us the grace to be faithful to this kind Mother. And may we repeat each day as he taught us:

“Virgin Mother of my God, make me all yours!
Yours in life, yours in death;
yours in suffering, yours in fears and in misery;
yours on the cross and in painful discouragement;
yours in time and in eternity.

Virgin Mother of my God, make me all yours!”

Totus tuus Maria.

Amen.

Request the particular grace desired through this novena.

Pray an Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be. Then pray the litany.

²SAINT JOHN PAUL II, *Letter to Priests for Holy Thursday 2005* http://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/letters/2005/documents/hf_jp-ii_let_20050313_priests-holy-thursday.html

LITANY IN HONOR OF ST. JOHN PAUL II

Lord, have mercy
Christ, have mercy
Lord, have mercy

*Lord, have mercy
Christ, have mercy
Lord, have mercy*

Christ, hear us
Christ, graciously hear us

*Christ, hear us
Christ, graciously hear us*

God the Father of Heaven
God the Son, Redeemer of the World
God the Holy Spirit
Holy Trinity, One God
Hero of the Seven Seas
Priest, Victim and Altar
Prophet of Immense Visions
Unchallenged Champion of all Records
Lord of the Dawn and Sentinel of the Dusk
Renowned Pastor
Defender of the Faith

*Have mercy on us
Have mercy on us
Have mercy on us
Have mercy on us
Pray for us*

Lamb of God, Who take away the sins of the world

Spare us, O Lord

Lamb of God, Who take away the sins of the world

Graciously hear us, O Lord

Lamb of God, Who take away the sins of the world

Have mercy on us

