

Personal comments on the Worldpriest Global Rosary Relay for the Sanctification of Priests

• Dublin, Ireland

'Contemplating on Mary as the first disciple of her Son while reciting the rosary with the parish community and participating in the Global Rosary Relay brought a great sense of prayer, contemplation, reassurance and hope to one and all who participated.'

Monsignor Ciaran O'Carroll, Church of the Sacred Heart Donnybrook, Dublin, Ireland.

• Sabah, Malaysia

'The Global Rosary Relay transforms sentiment into fact; intent into concrete action. I know I should pray for priests - the Global Rosary Relay gives me a powerful way to actually do it.'

Melissa Nicholas Palikat, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia.

• Trujillo Alto, Puerto Rico

'The world and the Church urgently need holy priests to make Jesus's heart effectively present, and the Annual Global Rosary Relay is a reminder of Our Lady's mission and intercession that His will be done.'

Monsignor Fernando Felices Sánchez, Puerto Rico.

• Karachi, Pakistan

'The Worldpriest Annual Global Rosary Relay has played a cardinal role in establishing a socio-ecclesiastical relationship between priests and laity through praying the holy Rosary. By participating in this unique annual religious event, praying for the sanctification of priests, providing practical support in its organisation and promoting it through the use of all available media - especially social media - I am happy that integrated socio-ecclesiastical relations between priests and lay believers is being intensified.'

Naveed Anjum, Karachi, Pakistan - Worldpriest team member.

• California, USA

'Through the Global Rosary Relay, my Rosary prayer is amplified by Our Lady to the Sacred Heart of Jesus for the sanctification of priests.'

**Berni Neal, Orange County, California, USA
- Worldpriest team member.**

• Pyrgos Greece

'Our Mother Virgin Mary leads us to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Worldpriest's Global Rosary Relay invitation to unite in prayer for the sanctification of priests has granted me the grace to monitor participations from six different countries. It is a joy to make it a "special event" for the group when we say "Let's pray the Rosary together".'

Ivette Valle Konstantopoulou, Greece.

• Fort Portal, Uganda

'My participation in the Worldpriest Global Rosary Relay made me appreciate more the networkings of the prayers for our priests, deepening people's love for the mysteries of the Rosary and relating them to different aspects of their lives.'

Bishop Robert Muhirwa of the Diocese of Fort Portal, Uganda.

• Sydney, Australia

'The Annual Global Rosary Relay for the Sanctification of Priests is a very important day in our Australian Church calendar as we pray for all Australian priests and reach out to Australian people worldwide to join in prayerfully.'

Father Sam French, Director of Vocations, Broken Bay Diocese, Sydney, Australia.

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Pray the Rosary, unite with your country and help encircle the world in prayer.



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The Worldpriest Annual Global Rosary Relay for the Sanctification of Priests



"One day, through the Rosary and the Scapular, Our Lady will save the world."

St. Dominic

 **Worldpriest**
• AFFIRMS • INSPIRES • INFORMS

A blessed prayer movement of astonishing annual growth and resounding success worldwide



Bishop Anton Teuma leads the Global Rosary Relay at Our Lady of Ta' Pinu Basilica in Gozo, Malta.

The origins of the Worldpriest Global Apostolate

In January 1994 at a weekend retreat during a time of Eucharistic adoration while being prayed over by Father Kevin Scallon CM, Marion Mulhall received a call of vocation, to 'promote the priesthood at any price'. This led in time to the development of the worldpriest.com website – a central outreach resource centre that affirms, inspires and informs priests around the world.

In 2003 St John Paul II designated the Feast of the Sacred Heart as a world day of prayer for the sanctification of priests, which Worldpriest celebrated and promoted globally, with great joy and much enthusiasm.

Following an inspiration received by Marion Mulhall

of 'twenty mysteries, twenty countries', which Marion believed was Our Lady wishing her Rosary to be prayed in twenty countries, the response from Worldpriest was to develop and promote the first ever Global Rosary Relay for the Sanctification of Priests, which began on 16 June 2009. The idea was to use the twenty-four-hour clock based on Greenwich Mean Time (GMT). Progress was very rapid and today the entire world now joins in a beautiful body of prayer in practically every country in the world over five continents. A conservative estimate indicates that a figure of three billion Hail Marys were prayed globally during the relay in 2023, with this day of prayer now recognised as the world's greatest day of prayer for the sanctification of priests, bringing an outpouring of pure grace to all involved.

The importance of the Rosary

The Rosary has always been an important collectively-prayed devotion to the mother of Jesus. The most sublime gift – called a perfect prayer – given to us by Our Lady, is meant to help us to grow closer to her. Through her we also grow closer to her beloved son, our saviour, Jesus Christ. The great Irish priest, the Venerable Patrick Peyton coined the phrase 'The family that prays together, stays together'. The episcopal adviser to Worldpriest, the Most Rev Fintan Monaghan has stated 'I am happy to support and highly recommend the current initiative of the Annual Global Rosary Relay. I believe it has great potential and will bring many spiritual benefits to all involved.'

The late Pope Benedict XVI remarked 'When reciting the Rosary, the important and meaningful moments of salvation history are relived and the various steps of Christ's mission are traced. With Mary the heart is oriented towards the mystery of Jesus. Christ is put at the centre of our life, of our time, through the contemplation and meditation of his holy mysteries of joy, light, sorrow and glory'. Pope Benedict's prayer, specially written for priests, can be read at: www.worldpriest.com.

How the relay works

The concept of the Worldpriest Annual Global Rosary Relay for the Sanctification of Priests is a simple one. Each of the participating prayer locations worldwide prays an allocated mystery of the Rosary at a set time as part of a relay in real time, praying in thanksgiving to the Mother of God for the work of our priests and asking for the blessing of their work. At midnight on the day, as the relay ends, the entire world will have been encircled in an avalanche of prayer.

Who prays on the day?

Everybody of faith is welcome to join the Worldpriest Global Rosary Relay for the Sanctification of Priests. That includes individuals, families, children and members of the elderly population. People can pray from their homes or from any other location of their choice. These locations include cathedrals, churches, grottoes, schools, colleges, hospitals, nursing homes or any other suitable venue for individual or collective prayer.

A global prayer event blessed by the Vatican

Apart from the support of the late Pope Benedict XVI, Pope Francis annually extends his Apostolic Blessing 'to all taking part in the 24-hour Rosary Relay for Priests'. Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican Secretary of State, quoted the Pope as saying 'His Holiness commends them and those joining in this event to the loving intercession of Our Lady of the Rosary, and willingly imparts his Apostolic Blessing as a pledge of grace and peace'.

A significant milestone in the history of Worldpriest Global Apostolate came on 3 June 2016, on the Global Rosary Relay day of that year, when Worldpriest founder Marion Mulhall was greeted by Pope Francis in St Peter's Square following a special Mass celebrated by the Pope with priests from around the world, marking the close of the Jubilee Year of Mercy.

How can a diocese, church, religious community, lay people or any other group participate on Worldpriest Global Rosary Relay day?

All participants should name their local prayer location, choose their best time to pray and the mysteries they want to pray. Participants may promote the event throughout their local diocese, a local parish community or the diocesan deaneries to extend participation. Wherever in the world participants are located they can download and print out details on how to participate, how to pray on the day and how to promote the event.

The search engine list marks all available GMT time slots, but many people plan their own prayer response outside this guide. Worldpriest urges participants to organise a team to lead the prayer time at their local church, inviting young people to lead where possible, as this is a wonderful way to evangelise the young. If people wish their local church to feature on the main listings they should email Worldpriest at the email address shown on this brochure. All possible assistance will be provided to ensure successful participation.

Reflection on the Rosary from Saint John Paul

'Today I am handing you the Rosary beads. Through prayer and meditation on the mysteries, Mary leads you safely towards her Son. Do not be ashamed to recite the Rosary alone, while you walk along the streets to school, to the university or to work, or as you commute by public transport. Adopt the habit of reciting it among yourselves, in your groups, movements and associations. Do not hesitate to suggest that it be recited at home, because it rekindles and strengthens the bonds between family members. This prayer will help you to be strong in your faith, constant in charity, joyful and persevering in hope'.

(Pope John Paul II, 8 March 2003)