



Year for Priests

PRESS RELEASE

30 march 2010

Priests Today

Witnesses and artistic performances
Paul VI Hall - 9 June 2010

CLOSING OF THE YEAR FOR PRIESTS

PRIESTS TODAY

Men of God – brothers together – prophets of a new world

Testimonies and artistic performances

Focolare Movement and Schoenstatt Movement
in collaboration with

International Catholic Charismatic Renewal (ICCRS) and other ecclesial groups

Paul VI Hall – Vatican

9 June 2010 – time: 16.00-19.00

Card. Claudio Hummes, Prefect of the Congregation for the Clergy,
will preside over the Vespers that will conclude the evening

Live on TV and internet

“Priests today” is the title of an afternoon that seeks to respond, above all through testimonies and the language of the arts, to the real challenges faced by priests today in the Church and in society. The event will take place on 9 June 2010, in the Paul VI Hall at the Vatican, as part of the concluding events of the Year for Priests. Priests from over 70 nations, worldwide, are expected to attend.

Sponsors of the event: the priests of the Focolare and the Schoenstatt Movements in collaboration with the ICCRS (International Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the Spirit) and other church associations.

The programme will describe in three phases the identity of the priest today: *Man of God – brothers among brothers – prophets of a new world*. Each section will be introduced by a thought from Benedict XVI (on video). In the concluding section, some thoughts of Chiara Lubich, foundress of the Focolare Movement, and of Fr. Josef Kentenich, founder of Schoenstatt, will be presented.

Witnesses – Among the speakers will be: a priest from Ireland on being faithful to God’s call; some of the survivors of the assault on the minor seminary of Buta from Burundi; and a priest from Germany who conquered his alcoholism with the help of his community. Other contributions will address the experience of ill health; celibacy lived in a fraternal environment; pastoral ministry lived in a daily multicultural and multi-faith context; and a large-scale evangelization project carried out together with the laity in southern Brazil.

Card. Claudio Hummes, Prefect of the Congregation for the Clergy, will preside over the Vespers that will conclude the evening. Card. Francisco Javier Errázuriz, Archbishop of Santiago in Chile, former president of CELAM, will give a theological address.

Artistic interludes will be coordinated by the Multiartistic Performing Group *Gen Verde*, together with priests from different parts of the world. The choreographies will be performed by the

seminarians from the international Center of Spirituality of Communion “Vinea mea” in Loppiano (Florence).

During the afternoon, there will be brief moments when all those present - priests, seminarians and lay persons, as well as consecrated men and women - can dialogue with each other on the topics presented.

Television coverage - The programme will be available in most nations, thanks to satellite transmission by the Vatican Television Center, to Telepace and other networks, and will also be available live on internet.

Initiatives in preparation for the event of 9 June:

- 6 May – ConcerTheatre production *Ars Amoris* dedicated to Saint Jean-Marie Vianney, in the Main Hall of the Pontifical Lateran University, Rome.
- 8 June – Retreat day organised by International Catholic Charismatic Renewal (ICCRS) - Lateran Basilica.
- In the days before and after the concluding events of the Year for Priests, the international town of the Focolare in Loppiano will offer a special programme for priests.
- 11 June – The Schoenstatt Movement invites all priests for an afternoon of celebration at Belmonte (Rome-Casalotti).

Programme and further information: www.sacerdotioggi.org – sacerdotioggi@gmail.com

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