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Year of the Priest
June 19, 2009 - June 19, 2010

PRAYER FOR PRIESTS

Dear Lord,

we pray that the Blessed Mother
wrap her mantle around your priests
and through her intercession
strengthen them for their ministry.

We pray that Mary will guide your priests
to follow her own words,
"Do whatever He tells you" (Jn 2:5).

May your priests have the heart of St. Joseph,
Mary's most chaste spouse.

May the Blessed Mother's own pierced heart
inspire them to embrace
all who suffer at the foot of the cross.

May your priests be holy,
filled with the fire of your love
seeking nothing but your greater glory
and the salvation of souls.

Amen.

Saint John Vianney, pray for us.

The icon shows Christ in Mass vestments with a gold pelican over his heart, the ancient symbol of self-sacrifice. At the bottom is an altar prepared for Mass, and at the sides are Melchizedek, whose sacrifice of bread and wine prefigured the Eucharist, and St. Jean-Marie Vianney.