

Draft press release – World Priest – 30 May 2016

Celebrate the closure of the Jubilee for Priests by praying the rosary in St Peter's Square on 3 June 2016 at 6 p.m.

This year there is a special focus on Rome as the seventh Annual Global Rosary Relay for Priests gets underway on 3 June.

The Annual Global Rosary Relay idea is a simple one. Each of the 100 participating shrines in some 50 countries prays a specific mystery of the rosary at a particular half hour on the day in thanksgiving to God for our priests and to implore the protection and loving care of Our Lady, Mother of all priests, for all her priestly sons. With the coming of midnight on the **3 June 2016**, the entire world will have been encircled in prayer for our priests on this The Annual Rosary Relay Day.

It was the great Irish priest Fr. Patrick Peyton who never tired of saying that 'The family that prays together stays together'. As the family of the Church, you are invited to join your prayers to the prayers of millions throughout the world on **3 June this year**. It is an opportunity for all of us to raise our hearts to God for all priests in the exercise of their ministry, praying that they will be blessed, through our prayers, with God's grace for their priesthood. We ask that through this worldwide communion of prayer for them, they may experience our gratitude and support and that they will persevere in unity with Christ and his Church and shepherd the Lord's flock to the safe pastures of his Kingdom.

At 10.30 on the morning of 3 June, the Feast of the Sacred Heart, a special Mass will be celebrated in St Peter's Square by Pope Francis, which will be attended by priests, bishops and cardinals from around the globe. World Priest founder Marion Mulhall and her colleagues Niall Kennedy and Anne Brady will attend this Mass. What a wonderful way this will be to celebrate the Annual Global Rosary Relay for Priests day by being present in Rome, the eternal city, at a Mass celebrated by Pope Francis!

On 1 June the Jubilee for Priests, given by Pope Francis, commences in the Vatican and is a very important event on the calendar of the Jubilee Year of Mercy, marking a very special time of retreat for priests. This three-day retreat closes in St Peter's Square on the evening of 3 June at 6 pm, the feast of the Sacred Heart with the praying of the Annual Global Rosary Relay for Priests, with five priests praying the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary in five languages. This represents a most historic moment in time for the World Priest Apostolate and all who have supported this Apostolate will share in the blessings of this great day.

People in Rome on the day are invited to mark the end of these days of prayer for the work of priests by joining the rosary in St. Peter's Square. You can of course join in spiritually from wherever in the world you are with young and old people alike, from over 50 countries at over 100 shrines.

Join your prayers with the voices of millions of others for the sanctification of all priests serving throughout the world. Pray also for Pope Francis, who has imparted his Apostolic Blessing to this unique global event.

PRAY THE ROSARY, UNITE WITH YOUR COUNTRY AND HELP ENCIRCLE THE WORLD IN PRAYER
'A world at prayer is a world at peace' – Servant of God Father Patrick Peyton.

Follow World Priest on Facebook and Twitter and enjoy the moments of the Annual Rosary Relay for Priests. Post us your pictures from all over the world during the relay.

The Annual Rosary Relay for Priests 2016 is organised and coordinated by World Priest. For further information email Info.worldpriest@gmail.com or consult our website at www.worldpriest.com.

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