

## Prayer Suggestions

When praying for the spiritual life and growth of the spiritual leader, an excellent way is to pray the words of some of St. Paul's prayers in such passages as:

Colossians 1: 9-12;  
Ephesians 1:15-23;  
Ephesians 3:14-21;  
Philippians 1:9-11.

Open your Bible to one of these texts and pray them through phrase by phrase, applying them specifically to your spiritual leader.

Heavenly Father, give to your servant grace and power to fulfil *his/her* ministry. Make *him/her* faithful to serve, ready to teach, and constant to advance your gospel; and grant that *he/she* may continue strong and steadfast in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

(Adapted from the Book of Alternative Services Pg 657—Consecration of a Deacon)

Lord God, we thank you for raising up among us faithful servants for ministry of your word and sacraments and leadership in your Church. I pray that (*insert name or names of your Spiritual Leader(s)*) may be a godly example to us of word and action, in love and patience, and in holiness of life. Grant that *he/she* may serve you now, and always rejoice in your glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Adapted from the Book of Alternative Services Pg 650—Ordination of a Priest)

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For further information or pamphlets please contact your AFP Diocesan Representative or the Resources Representative for AFP Canada.  
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### Praying For Your Spiritual Leader

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# PRAYING FOR YOUR SPIRITUAL LEADERS

Supporting the spiritual leaders of your parish or community by praying daily for him or her or them may be the most important thing you can do in spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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## Spiritual Leaders Need Prayer

This pamphlet is intended to provide a resource for those who would pray regularly for their Spiritual Leader(s) by suggesting a focus and starting place for prayer on each day of the week.

Christians have many names for their Spiritual Leaders. We refer to them by titles such as: Priests; Pastors; Ministers; Rectors; Deacons; Bishops; Archbishops; and Primate. Many lay people also share important positions of leadership in the church.

By whatever title we may use to refer to them, our Spiritual Leaders need our support and continuing prayer. They are “out front” in the proclamation of the Good News of Jesus, and as people who are called to help and equip us to tell others, they often encounter the forces of evil and engage in Spiritual Warfare. They often experience greater pressures, tensions and stress, and those whom they lead have high expectations of them, some of which are difficult, if not impossible, to meet. Too often we neglect or forget that they need prayer, perhaps more than others. A community of believers upholding them in prayer daily is needed to protect and support them.



### DAY 1 FOR YOUR SPIRITUAL LEADER'S RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD:

- ✠ Nourishment by God's Word and the sacraments.
- ✠ Prayer life.
- ✠ Being filled with the Holy Spirit.
- ✠ Maturity and growth in Grace.
- ✠ Protection from every form of evil.

### DAY 2 FOR YOUR SPIRITUAL LEADER'S PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING:

- ✠ Good health and prevention from disease.
- ✠ Safety.
- ✠ Confidence, security, compassion, and a positive attitude.
- ✠ Deliverance from discouragement, loneliness, and depression.

### DAY 3 FOR YOUR SPIRITUAL LEADER'S FAMILY:

- ✠ Husband/wife relationships.
- ✠ Children.
- ✠ Close relatives.

### DAY 4 FOR YOUR SPIRITUAL LEADER'S ABILITY TO COMMUNICATE:

- ✠ Wisdom and Godly help in the communication of the Gospel.
- ✠ Ability to enable and equip others.
- ✠ Draw others to Christ's ministry of transformation, and mobilizing them to be Christ's hands and feet in a troubled, needy world.

### DAY 5 FOR YOUR SPIRITUAL LEADER'S MINISTRY:

- ✠ Courage, wisdom, insight, integrity, and compassion.
- ✠ For doors and hearts to open to his/her ministry.
- ✠ Empowerment by God the Holy Spirit for fruitful service. (John 15:16).

### DAY 6 FOR YOUR SPIRITUAL LEADER'S FELLOW WORKERS:

- ✠ All of the fellow workers in your parish and in the diocese. e.g. parish secretary, music person(s), bishop, youth coordinator, pastoral care persons; church school staff, other clergy, archdeacons, lay readers, intercessors, prayer partners, wardens, parish groups, and ecumenical fellow workers.

### DAY 7 FOR THE AREAS, RELIGIOUS, POLITICAL, SOCIAL, IN WHICH YOUR SPIRITUAL LEADER IS INVOLVED:

- ✠ That the whole climate of responsiveness to the Gospel may heighten and that many will be brought to faith in Christ.
- ✠ The political situation, the government and its leaders, the social circumstances that the spiritual leader works in.
- ✠ That many will join Christ's ministry of transforming the world and respond to the call to be co-workers with Christ in building God's Kingdom and caring for His creation.