

INTENTIONAL PRESBYTERATES II

INSTITUTE FOR PRIESTS AND PRESBYTERATES



Saint Meinrad
Seminary & School of Theology



HONORING THE VARIETY OF GIFTS WITHIN OUR PRESBYTERATE

This booklet is intended to help you plan a presbyterate gathering for your diocese or archdiocese that will provide ongoing formation for all members of the presbyterate. Each gathering will be as unique as each presbyterate.

The following suggestions are provided by the Institute for Priests and Presbyterates, a program of Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology, to help create an event that will serve the needs of the presbyterate, be based on the teachings of the Church and allow the diocese / archdiocese to avoid the expense of outside speakers' fees.

“Honoring the Variety of Gifts within Our Presbyterate” builds on Intentional Presbyterates I: “Claiming Our Common Sense of Purpose as Diocesan Priests,” which introduced the concept of presbyteral unity as a formation issue beyond that of individual priests.

It asked priests to grasp, think about and act out of the theology that they are not priests one by one, but they are priests and serve the mission of the Church in a presbyterate with their bishop.

Intentional Presbyterates II: “Honoring the Variety of Gifts within Our Presbyterate” is the next step—further building presbyteral unity by honoring and sharing our various gifts with one another and those from whom we serve. Intentional Presbyterates II seeks to implement some of the ideas described in recent Church documents.

Pastores Dabo Vobis

The communal dimension of our ministry demands a marked asceticism of giving brother priests the opportunity to make good use of their talents and abilities, setting aside all forms of jealousy, envy and rivalry. (#28)

All (priests) are required to make a sincere effort to live in mutual esteem, to respect others, and to hold in esteem all the positive and legitimate diversities present in the presbyterate. This too constitutes part of the priest's spiritual life and his continual practice of asceticism. (#31)

The entire People of God can and should offer precious assistance to the ongoing formation of its priests. (#78)

The Basic Plan for the Ongoing Formation of Priests United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

The fraternal bonds of a presbyterate are forged and deepened not only in the context of prayer and work done together but also through the informal contact that priests in a presbyterate have with one another. These become occasions of mutual recognition and support and, on occasion, of healthy challenge. Given the pace of parish life and time demands that are made on priests, a kind of planned spontaneity may be the only way that such informal contact can be made.

RECOMMENDED SCHEDULE

Monday

1-5 p.m. Arrival and welcome

5 p.m. Social

6 p.m. Dinner

Welcome and introductions by Archbishop/Bishop

Prayer over meal – Archbishop/Bishop

7 p.m. Vespers

Sharing the Vision: “The Generosity, Competence and Challenges of Our Presbyterate”

A panel of three priests comments on these three dimensions of the presbyterate, followed by small group discussions.

8 p.m. Movie and Discussion: “Mass Appeal”

This 1984 movie starring Jack Lemmon is a humorous, though poignant, story of a rebellious seminarian and a seasoned pastor who teaches him about the “realities” of priesthood. In the moving finale, both men reach out to each other, providing a glimpse of the tricky way in which our lives are graced by God. Even though their two styles have been reversed since 1984, the discussion to follow can help build unity across ideological divides in a humorous way. A discussion leader and discussion questions should be selected in advance.

Tuesday

7-8:15 a.m. Breakfast

8:30 a.m. Lauds

9:00 a.m. Sharing the Wisdom: Workshops

The following are examples of workshops that could be offered. Let participants attend as many sessions as

possible over the two days. Some sessions could be repeated, so more individuals could attend. The “history and culture” and “charism” sessions help the presbyterate learn more about our international priests and religious communities.

Military Chaplaincy

Newman Chaplaincies

Missionary Priests from Our Diocese

Ecumenical Ministry

Automobile Mechanics 101

The Church in India

Grief and Loss in the Priesthood

Nigerian Culture and History

Medical Ethics

The Basics of Self-Publishing

9:45 a.m. Break

10:00 a.m. Workshops

Ecumenical Ministry

Salvadoran Culture and History

National Priest Organizations

Social Service Ministry

The Church in Poland Today

What I Wish I Knew Before Retirement

Seminary Ministry: Priests Working in the Seminary

10:45 a.m. Break

11:15 a.m. Memorial Mass for deceased priests of the presbyterate

Noon Lunch

1 p.m. Free time

5:30 p.m. Dinner

6:30 p.m. Vespers

7:00 p.m. Sharing the Fun: Volleyball tournament for all
This bonding experience would feature a non-threatening sports event. The twist would be that those playing could not self-select the team on which they would play. Those who cannot, or do not want to, play would be cheerleaders and fans, but all would be encouraged to attend.

8:30 p.m. Social

Wednesday

7-8:15 a.m. Breakfast

8:30 a.m. Lauds

9:00 a.m. Sharing the Wisdom: Workshops

Puerto Rican Culture and History

African American Ministry

Ministry to the Sick

Ministry to Divorced Catholics

Campus and Young Adult Ministry

Planning Your Own Funeral

9:45 a.m. Break

10:00 a.m. Workshops, continued

Vietnamese Culture and History

Personal Finances

Organizing Overseas Pilgrimages and Tours

Whatever Happened to Father So-and-So?

Charisms of Our Religious Communities: A Panel of Religious Priests

What's Happening in the Seminary These Days: A Dialogue with a Panel of Seminarians or Those Who Work with Them

A report of dismissed and missing priests would be given by a team of those who know—vicar general, vicar for priests, personnel director, etc. Confidentiality would, of course, be observed when necessary.



10:45 a.m. Break

11:15 a.m. Mass

Noon Lunch

1 p.m. Free time

5:00 p.m. Evening prayer

5:30 p.m. Social

6:00 p.m. Banquet honoring those who are celebrating anniversaries

7:45 p.m. Sharing the Talent: Concert and dessert social

A post-dinner concert/dessert social could be hosted by parish liturgical musicians and/or priest musicians from the diocese in a “coffeehouse” arrangement.

Thursday

7-8:15 a.m. Breakfast

8:30 a.m. Lauds

9:00 a.m. Plenary Session: A Report by the Bishop

10:30 a.m. Break

11:15 a.m. Mass; Bishop presides and preaches

Noon Lunch and departure

ADDITIONAL THINGS TO CONSIDER

- According to Canon 245.2, “seminarians, while they are in the seminary, are to be trained to take their places in the diocesan presbyterate.” Inviting them to attend could be a wonderful opportunity for “group mentoring.”
- The main reason for a unified presbyterate is to offer better quality pastoral ministry to the People of God. Having this event covered in the diocesan paper, with pictures, could be an opportunity to educate the laity on the presbyterate’s efforts at ongoing formation.
- Involving the laity in an evening music concert and dessert event would give them a chance to show their appreciation for the ministry of priests in a non-intrusive way.
- Because dioceses and presbyterates are different, creative additions or subtractions to this outline are encouraged.
- Planning committee questions can be addressed to Fr. Ronald Knott at rknott@saintmeinrad.edu.
- If this model is used, a donation to the Saint Meinrad Institute for Priests and Presbyterates would be most welcomed.



FEEDBACK FROM THOSE WHO HAVE USED THIS MODEL

The convocation for the Presbyterate of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis was yet another very positive and, I believe, formational and engaging experience. This is my observation as a participant. My opinion has been overwhelmingly confirmed by comments from a wide spectrum of individual priests as well.

I also believe there is evidence of a genuine desire to continue to explore and develop an intentional commitment to the unity of our presbyterate. I sense a definite positive development.

*Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein
Archdiocese of Indianapolis, Indiana*

This unique and creative approach which focused on the presbyterate learning from each other and celebrating together in prayer and social gatherings is a great gift. The initial response of the priests to the week as well as the tone that was present make it very evident to me that you have developed a direction within the Church that will bear much fruit. The pace and content of the week were excellent and I would not underestimate the careful planning of the core committee that built the enthusiastic reception that took place.

*Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz
Archdiocese of Louisville, Kentucky*

I want to express, once again, my deep thanks for your development of the Intentional Presbyterate (models). I have personally witnessed how it has strengthened the sense of unity among our priests.

*Bishop Victor Galeone
Diocese of St. Augustine, Florida*





“Priests are not priests one by one, but they are priests and serve the mission of the church in a presbyterate with the bishop. The priests is called in particular to grow in and with his own presbyterate in union with his bishop.”

*United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
“The Basic Plan for the Ongoing Formation of Priests”*



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