



Letter of H.L. Mgr Mario Grech
Bishop of Gozo
on the Occasion of the Year for Priests

“The faithfulness of Christ, the Faithfulness of Priests”

Yesterday’s (today’s) ordination of three new priests reminds us that Christ is still endowing the Church in Gozo with a good number of priests that give service to the Church in Gozo and away from our shores.

I know that many of you speak about priests and their mission. Most have great affection for our priests, and rightly so, because there have been, and there still are in the Diocese, examples of holy priests.

In order for the priests themselves to continue developing in holiness by always being more loyal to Christ, and so that the people of God and society understand and appreciate more the beauty and necessity of the priestly ministry in the Church for the salvation of mankind, Pope Benedict XVI announced that next Friday, the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, a **Special Year for Priests** will be inaugurated in the universal Church. This year will commemorate the death of Saint John Mary Vianney, the Curate of Ars, a true example of a shepherd of Christ’s flock.

During this Year, all of us – Priests, Religious, Consecrated Persons and Lay faithful – will seek to help each other to develop a renewed vision of the catholic priest, will learn to continue to look on him with the eyes of faith, and intensify our prayers for priests and vocations.

Therefore, I beseech the People of God, especially the sick, that during this year they continue to pray hard so that this providential experience will sanctify us all.

We shall be inaugurating this Year in our Diocese by a liturgical celebration with the participation of all the clergy in the Fontana Parish Church, where the Sacred Heart is venerated. The celebration will take place next Friday 19th June, at 5 p.m., on the day dedicated to prayers for the holiness of priests.

I invoke the Lord’s blessing on all of you.

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Mons. Salv. Debrincat
Chancellor

+ Mario Grech
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