

## History Of World Priest Day

The first World Priest Day was celebrated on the third Sunday in September 2000. The event grew from an idea in September of 1998, when the Worldwide Marriage Encounter community in the Diocese of Knoxville, TN decided to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the diocese by honoring all of their priests. They delivered cards of appreciation and goody baskets to every priest in the diocese. Enthusiastic teams of couples and families decorated rectories, including the bishop's residence, with balloons, streamers, and posters expressing love and appreciation. The bishop & priests were so appreciative that the leaders of the local M.E. community shared the idea with the leaders of other communities in the Southeastern U.S. Some of those communities adopted the idea in 1999, and had such a positive experience that they brought the idea to the national leadership board.

One year later, Worldwide Marriage Encounter officially established the third Sunday of September as World Priest Day. During the thirty-five years that Marriage Encounter has existed in the U.S., one of its gifts has been the wonderful relationships that have grown between countless couples and priests. This idea for honoring our priests came from the love and respect that has grown from those relationships. It predated the recent Church scandals, but we believe that building stronger relationships between priests and their people can rebuild our Church! We are together on our faith journey.

Click on this link <http://wpd.wwme.org/> to go to the World Priest Day web site.