

## HOW DO I SIGN UP TO BE A SPIRITUAL MOTHER?

Any woman can be a Spiritual Mother without formally “signing up” to be one. By prayers and sacrifices, many women have chosen to support priests in their vocation to be Spiritual Fathers to God’s people. *Family Vocation Ministries* is formally offering to assist women in becoming Spiritual Mothers and would like to help with their ongoing formation (according to the Magisterial teachings of the Church).

If you would like more information and/or would like to be assigned a priest to become a Spiritual Mother for, please fill out the form below, or visit our website: [FamilyVocations.org](http://FamilyVocations.org).

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NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return completed form to:**  
Family Vocation Ministries  
7375 Day Creek Blvd., Ste. 103-223  
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91739

## WHAT DO SPIRITUAL MOTHERS DO?

It is important to note, Spiritual Motherhood is not a vocation in itself. It does not replace the married state, the consecrated life, or celibacy for the sake of the Kingdom. Spiritual Motherhood is a vocation “within a vocation” for women who discern a calling to assist priests in their vocation and pastoral ministry. The first and foremost duty for any Christian is to answer the universal call to holiness within their particular state of life.<sup>2</sup> After answering that call, then, women may choose to assist priests by being Spiritual Mothers.

Some ways to assist priests as Spiritual Mothers are:

- Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament
- Rosaries
- Doing Penance and Mortification for them (prudently)
- Praying for them on a daily basis
- Offering up their work and sacrifices

*N.B. The duties of Spiritual Mothers do not bind under sin. All extra prayers and sacrifices from Spiritual Mothers should be done after they answer their own universal call to holiness and the duties of their state of life.*

2) Vatican II, *The Light of the Nations*, 40

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# SPIRITUAL MOTHERHOOD

*“Every priestly vocation  
comes from the heart of God but  
passes through the heart of a mother.”*





"Let us live for souls, let us be apostles, let us save especially the souls of priests. . . . Let us pray, let us suffer for them, and, on the last day Jesus will be grateful."

—St. Therese of Lisieux

## WHAT IS SPIRITUAL MOTHERHOOD?

In imitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Spiritual Motherhood is a vocation "within a vocation" for women who would like to pray and sacrifice for priests.

## WHY SPIRITUAL MOTHERHOOD?

The initiative for Spiritual Mothers was established For the Good of the Clergy.<sup>1</sup> According to the Spiritual Motherhood document, the Congregation for the Clergy has three main goals in mind:

- I. An Authentic Renewal of Priestly Life
- II. The Fruitfulness of Priests' Pastoral Ministry
- III. An Increase of Vocations to the Priesthood

Pope John Paul II said this in one of his Addresses regarding womanhood and motherhood:

"There are so many mothers today in the same situation as St. Monica. Nobody can thank them enough for what they have done through prayer and sacrifice for the Church and the Kingdom of God. May God reward them for it. If the desired renewal of the Church depends for the most part on its priests, then it will also depend to a large degree on the families, and in particular women and mothers."—May 4, 1987

## HOW WAS SPIRITUAL MOTHERHOOD ESTABLISHED?

Spiritual Motherhood started with Mary's *Fiat* to the Archangel Gabriel and reached its culmination at the Foot of the Cross when Christ entrusted the Blessed Virgin Mary to St. John the Apostle with the words, "Behold your Mother" (John 19:27).

Jesus willed the Priesthood in His Human Nature in and through a Mother. That is the way God ordained it to happen and that is also the normal way the Church fosters vocations to the priesthood: **Through Good FAMILY LIFE! THROUGH GOOD MOTHERS!**

## WHO CAN BECOME A SPIRITUAL MOTHER?

"Independent of age or social status, any woman can become a mother for priests. This type of motherhood is not only for mothers of families, but is just as possible for an unmarried girl, a widow, or for someone who is ill."— *Eucharistic Adoration for the Sanctification of Priests and Spiritual Maternity*, Page 11

*"If the desired renewal of the Church depends for the most part on its priests, then it will also depend to a large degree on the families, and in particular women and mothers."*

—Blessed John Paul II, May 4, 1987

FROM THE REQUEST OF THE VATICAN'S CONGREGATION FOR THE CLERGY AND WITH THE SUPPORT OF POPE BENEDICT XVI, THE TASK TO SPREAD *SPIRITUAL MOTHERHOOD FOR PRIESTS* IS BEING ANSWERED BY FAMILY VOCATION MINISTRIES.

THE DOCUMENT ENTITLED "*EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION FOR THE SANCTIFICATION OF PRIESTS AND SPIRITUAL MATERNITY*" WAS RELEASED ON DECEMBER 8, 2007 BY THE CONGREGATION FOR THE CLERGY, REQUESTING ALL DIOCESES AND THE LAY FAITHFUL TO HELP THE PRIESTHOOD BY THEIR CONSTANT PRAYER AND EUCHARISTIC ADORATION.



1) Vatican's Congregation for the Clergy, "Eucharistic Adoration for the Sanctification of Priests and Spiritual Maternity", Page 5