



# Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown

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## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

### *Diocese Announces Events for the Year of the Priest*

(HOLLIDAYSBURG, PA) -- The Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown has announced plans to mark the Year of the Priest. Pope Benedict XVI declared June 19, 2009 – June 19, 2010 as a Year for Priests in celebration of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Saint John Vianney, the patron saint of parish priests. According to Pope Benedict, the observance is “meant to deepen the commitment of all priests to interior renewal for the sake of a stronger and more incisive witness to the Gospel in today’s world.”

A Diocesan committee for the Year of the Priest – Rev. Msgr. Michael Servinsky, Vicar General; Rev. Msgr. Robert Mazur, Director of Liturgy; Rev. Msgr. Timothy Swope, Director of Ongoing Formation of the Clergy; Rev. Angelo Patti, Presbyteral Council Chair; and Very Rev. Anthony Francis Spilka, OFM Conv., Vicar for Religious – announced the following plans:

1. Each Parish within the Diocese is invited to have Holy Hour with Eucharistic Adoration. The particular time will be determined by each Faith Community during the Advent-Christmas Season, Winter Ordinary Time, Lent or Easter Season. Following reposition, there will be the option of veneration of a first class relic of Saint John Vianney.
2. The Most Rev. Joseph V. Adamec, Bishop of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, will gather with his priests on an evening in February at Saint John Vianney Parish in Mundy’s Corner. Evening Prayer will be followed by a social and dinner.
3. Two lectures on the priesthood will be scheduled during Lent at Saint Michael’s in Loretto. The first session will be for priests from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Faithful are invited. The second session will be for the Faithful from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The clergy are welcome. The speaker will be announced at a later time.
4. A Mass celebrating the Year of the Priest will be held on Tuesday June 29, 2010 (Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul), at 7:00 p.m., at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona. All are welcome to attend. The Mass also marks the celebration of Bishop Joseph’s upcoming 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood and his upcoming 75<sup>th</sup> birthday.
5. Bishop Joseph and his priests will take a summer 2010 pilgrimage to the newly-restored chapel of Saint Mary’s Seminary in Baltimore – the first seminary in the United States, and the newly-restored Basilica of the Assumption – the first Catholic cathedral in the United States.

For more information on the Year of the Priest, please go to the Diocesan website at [www.ajdiocese.org](http://www.ajdiocese.org).