

# INTENTIONAL PRESBYTERATES III

INSTITUTE FOR PRIESTS AND PRESBYTERATES



*Saint Meinrad*  
Seminary & School of Theology



## MADE HOLY BY OUR SHARED MINISTRY

**T**his booklet is intended to help you plan a presbyteral 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. In addition, this presbyteral theme affirms the talents of individual priests and educates the presbyterate about those gifts.

“Made Holy by Our Shared Ministry” builds on the previous two Intentional Presbyterates' themes, “Claiming Our Common Sense of Purpose as Diocesan Priests” and “Honoring the Variety of Gifts within Our Presbyterate.”

Intentional Presbyterates I: “Claiming Our Common Sense of Purpose as Diocesan Priests” focuses on the theology of presbyteral unity, on writing a common vision statement and on hearing the expectations of various stakeholders—both within and outside the priesthood.

Intentional Presbyterates II: “Honoring the Variety of Gifts within Our Presbyterate” focuses on how giving fellow priests opportunities to share their gifts and talents with one another is part of the work of building presbyteral unity and constitutes part of a priest's spiritual life.

Intentional Presbyterates III: “Made Holy by Our Shared Ministry” is based on themes from *Pastores Dabo Vobis*, focusing on how a priest's threefold ministry is his principal means of sanctification.

### Made Holy by Our Ministry of the Word

The priest is first of all a minister of the word of God. For this reason a priest ought to develop a great personal familiarity with the word, approaching it with a docile and prayerful heart so that it may deeply penetrate his thoughts and feelings and bring about a new outlook in him, while being aware that the words of his ministry are not “his.” Precisely because he can and does evangelize, the priest ought to grow in awareness that he himself is continually in need of being evangelized.

*Pastores Dabo Vobis III, 27*



## Made Holy by Our Ministry of the Sacraments

It is above all in the celebration of the sacraments and in the celebration of the Liturgy of the Hours that the priest is called to live and witness to the deep unity between the exercise of his ministry and his spiritual life. The priest's spiritual life is built up and molded by the different characteristics and demands of each of the sacraments as he celebrates and experiences them.

*Pastores Dabo Vobis III, 27*

## Made Holy by Our Ministry of Leadership

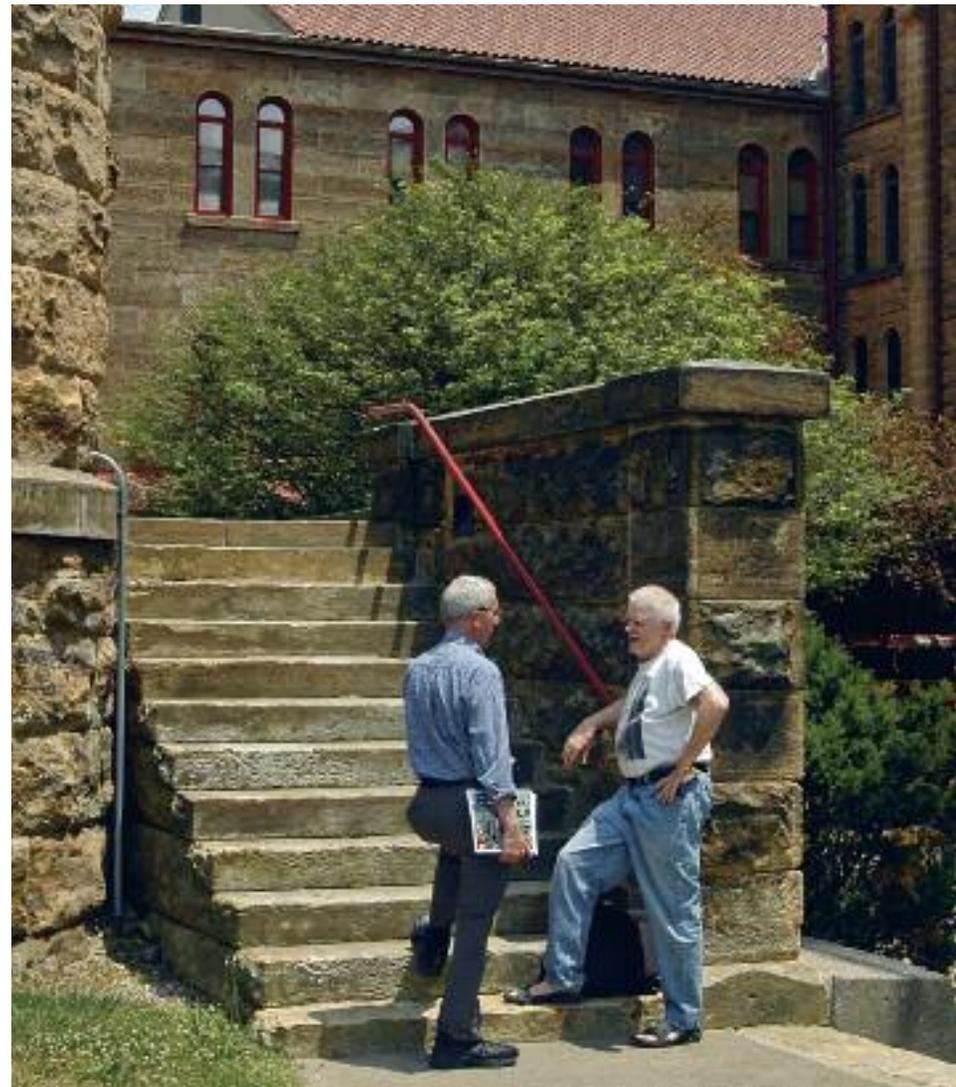
The ability to coordinate all the gifts and charisms in the community, to discern them and put them to good use for the upbuilding of the Church in union with the bishops, demands of the priest an intense spiritual life, filled with those qualities and virtues typical of a person who "presides over" and "leads" a community.

*Pastores Dabo Vobis III, 27*

## Notes for the Planning Committee

- The week should be filled with educational workshops, group experiences and the showcasing of best practices.
- Workshops should be assigned to various capable priests, seminary staff and lay leaders well in advance with clear directives.
- A variety of music and worship styles should be employed during the week at Mass and Liturgy of the Hours.

- The best preachers in the presbyterate should be identified and used throughout the week for Mass, Liturgy of the Hours and Eucharistic Holy Hour.
- The parish liturgical ministers should be invited to give a concert of sacred music, old and new.
- Targeted books should be available for sale.



## RECOMMENDED SCHEDULE

### *Monday*

1:00-5:00 p.m. Arrival and welcome

5:00 p.m. Social

5:45 p.m. Dinner

Welcome and introductions by archbishop/bishop

Prayer before meal by archbishop/bishop

7:00 p.m. Vespers

Opening Talk: "The Spirituality of a Diocesan Priest:  
The Deep Unity between Our Spirituality and Our  
Threefold Ministry"

8:30 p.m. Movie and discussion: "Chocolat" (assign a  
discussion leader)

### *Tuesday*

7:00-8:15 a.m. Breakfast

8:30 a.m. Lauds

9:00 a.m. "Made Holy by Our Ministry of the Word" Workshops

These are examples of workshops that could be offered.

The speakers can come from among the priests or from  
resources within the diocese and the seminary (if  
available). Let participants attend as many sessions as  
possible; repeat certain workshops, if needed.

Using the Pulpit for Group Spiritual Direction

How Lay Preaching Can Help Pastors in Their  
Preaching Ministry

Preaching the Reality of "The Evil One"

Building a Personal Homiletics Resource Center

Developing an Oral Writing Style

9:45 a.m. Break

10:00 a.m. "Made Holy by Our Ministry of the Word"  
(continued)

Preaching Parish Missions, Retreats and Days of

Recollection

How to Start a Homiletics Reflection Group

Using the Computer for Homiletics Research

Developing Seasonal Homiletics Series: Priest and  
Deacons Together

Using the Pulpit for Personal Sanctification

10:45 a.m. Break

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

12:00 p.m. Lunch

1:00 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration

2:00-5:30 p.m. Free time

5:30 p.m. Dinner

6:30 p.m. Vespers

7:00 p.m. Penance service

8:30 p.m. Social

### *Wednesday*

7:00-8:15 a.m. Breakfast

8:30 a.m. Lauds

9:00 a.m. "Made Holy by Our Ministry of the Sacraments"

Workshops

Preparing to Preside as a Spiritual Discipline

Organizing a Multiple Wedding Ministry

Doing What's in the Book Well: Excellence vs.  
Creativity

Using the Rituals for Personal Prayer

Organizing a Multiple Funeral Ministry

Doing a Better Job with the Sacrament of Reconciliation

9:45 a.m. Break

10:00 a.m. "Made Holy by Our Ministry of Leadership"

Workshops

Rights and Duties of Pastors and Parochial Vicars in  
Canon Law  
Parish Communication Systems: A Checklist  
Conflict Management within the Parish  
Training Effective Lay Parish Administrators  
Resurrecting Excellence in Oneself and Others  
Management as Ministry

10:45 a.m. Break

11:15 a.m. Mass

12:00 p.m. Lunch

1:00 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

7:30 p.m. 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*

7:00-8:15 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

12:00 p.m. 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 of 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](mailto:rknott@saintmeinrad.edu)
- If this model is used, a donation to the Saint Meinrad Institute for Priests and Presbyterates would be most welcome.



## FEEDBACK FROM THOSE WHO HAVE USED THIS MODEL

The Holy Spirit has certainly directed you into this critical ministry. So many of our priests approached me with words of gratitude for having you as our speaker and your choice of the theme, "Made Holy Through Our Ministry." In my fourteen years of attendance at the annual diocesan Convocation, I cannot recall receiving such a positive and grateful response about our presenter. I think I can speak for our entire Presbyterate when I express our gratitude and appreciation.

*Most Reverend John M. Smith  
Bishop of Trenton*

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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.

*Most Reverend Daniel M. Buechlein, OSB  
Archbishop of Indianapolis*

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