

A Celebration of “Our” Priests

by Fr. Mark Pavlik
April 18, 2010

The year for priests is drawing to a close — ending on June 19. But before it ends, the St. Olaf Parish Advisory Board wanted the parish to have a celebration of our own, honoring the priests from St. Olaf. In early March, we sent out an invitation to all priests who have been assigned here over the past 69 years as well as those who have helped out regularly and also to those priests who have come forward from the pews to be ordained. We sent out 37 invitations and as I write this article during Holy Week, we have 8 confirmed attendees.

The celebration will take place on Sunday, May 2 at the 4:00 pm Mass, where the visiting priests will concelebrate. Following Mass, there will be a reception in their honor in the Gathering Room, giving us a chance to welcome them home to St. Olaf and to catch up. I hope you are able to attend this celebration in honor of “our” priests.

Following the parish reception, there will be a private dinner held for the priests hosted by the advisory board members.

A Prayer for Priests

Lord Jesus, you have chosen your priests from among us and sent them out to proclaim your word and to act in your name. For so great a gift to your Church, we give you praise and thanksgiving. We ask you to fill them with the fire of your love, that their ministry may reveal your presence in the Church. Since they are earthen vessels, we pray that your power shine out through their weakness. In their afflictions let them never be crushed; in their doubts, never despair; in temptation, never be destroyed; in persecution, never abandoned. Inspire them through prayer to live each day the mystery of your dying and rising. In times of weakness, send them your Spirit, and help them to praise your heavenly Father and pray for poor sinners. By the same Holy Spirit, put your words on their lips and your love in their hearts, to bring good news to the poor and healing to the brokenhearted. And may the gift of Mary, your mother, watch over your priests and be their advocate in all things. We ask this in your most holy name. Amen.