

**This Week's Message
from Fr. Amesse
September 27, 2026**



This weekend we celebrate Priesthood Sunday, a day to pray for our priests and to thank God for the gift of the priesthood. For me, it is also a day to reflect on what a privilege it has been to serve God's people as a priest and as a Missionary Oblate of Mary Immaculate.

A priest is invited into some of the most important moments of people's lives. We baptize children. We celebrate marriages. We anoint the sick. We bury those you love. We celebrate the Eucharist with you. And sometimes we simply sit with you when there are no words that can make things better.

Here at St. Joseph the Worker Shrine, I am especially reminded of the gift of the priesthood through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. So many people come through our doors seeking God's forgiveness. Some have been away from confession for a few weeks. Others return after many years. What a privilege it is to be able to say those beautiful words: "I absolve you from your sins."

Priests are human. We have our strengths and our weaknesses. We make mistakes. We need your prayers just as you need ours. But God calls ordinary men and entrusts them with an extraordinary responsibility—to bring Christ to His people.

On this Priesthood Sunday, please pray for your priests. Pray for our Oblates here at the Shrine. Pray for our retired priests and for those who have gone before us. And especially pray that more young men will hear God's call and have the courage to answer it. After all these years, I remain grateful that God called me to this life. I am grateful that He called me to serve you.

I pray for you. You pray for me.