

Lay Day of Fast for Priests, 20 October 2007

3.00 PM SERVICE - NATIONAL SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF LA SALEETE,
ATTLEBORO

OPENING REMARKS

It has pleased Our Lady that this year's fast has spread to many countries. One of the reasons that we cannot estimate the numbers of people involved is because news of the event has spread through the internet. The Editor of the Catholic News Service, which has 7 Million readers per week, ran details of the Fast on the front page of its website inviting people from all over the world to join us. Parishes in other lands also organized the event and the volume of participants from these places is unknown to us. For example, one Vicar General in Scotland, invited all the parishes in his diocese to sign up.

We know that closer to home, hundreds have signed up from the many visitors who come to this National Shrine of Our Lady. Some people requested to be given multiple sign-up sheets to take them home to family members, the Housebound Missionaries, as well as to advertise the Fast at their own parishes. The Bishop of Fall River, Bishop George Coleman, who gave this annual event his blessing again, wrote to us and said that he would be joining us in this year's endeavor and is grateful for the fasting and prayers for all priests. Through Monsignor Theroux, Bishop Tobin of Providence also added his support and extended the invitation to fast to all parishioners in his diocese. The Sisters at Mount St Mary's in Wrentham have again joined us today as have many bikers who came to the Shrine recently. And of course, we have been joined by all the La Salette missionaries from here to the Philippines.

We all know the power of prayer. Today, people from all over the world have stormed Heaven in defense of the priesthood. We may never know the power of our Fast while we live on this Earth, but we can be absolutely certain that today, as we marched behind our most powerful sovereign, the Queen of Heaven, a major battle has been fought and won for these “other Christs” of the Father, and since God will never be outdone in generosity, He will now shower untold blessings on each one of us and on all who are loved by us.

We truly hope that you will join us again, same place, same time, next year.