



## **COOKIN' FOR PADRES**

**SERVES:  
CHURCH**

**TIME:  
ANYTIME**

### **PRESENTING THE NEED TO MY TEAM**

How much does your parish priest do for you? How much do they do for your family? By his hands we are brought into the spiritual life in Baptism, through him your sins are washed away in Confession, from his hands you receive the author of life himself in the Blessed Sacrament. Even beyond this, your priest does so much to serve you, your family and your Conquest group.



This apostolic service project gives you a chance to give back. Your club organizes a social dinner for a few local priests and serves them with professional level service. That might seem complicated but it is something that any club can organize rather easily.

**HAVE YOU EVER STOPPED TO THINK  
THAT PRIESTS GIVE THEIR VERY  
LIVES FOR US THROUGH THEIR  
VOCATION!**

### **OUR CALL TO SERVE**

Let's give our parish priest an awesome dinner party! We can also invite his friends, other priests and deacons, so we can truly show them how much we appreciate what they do for us. We can give them professional service, like the best restaurants in town!

## **PROJECT OVERVIEW**

# PROJECT OVERVIEW

| WEEK | STEPS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | WEEKLY THEME |
|------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1    | <p><b>Location and Date:</b> This is the most important and first thing you need to do. Someone needs to be assigned to call the Pastor to confirm date.</p> <p><b>List:</b> Make a list of priests that you would like to invite. You should include their assistants, deacons, and neighboring parishes.</p>                                                     |              |
| 2    | <p><b>Food &amp; Fun:</b> The team needs to plan what kind of food to serve. Is your priest Italian, Irish, German, etc.? Do you know his favorite dish? It would also be a good time to start brainstorming fun games to play with them – such as trivia.</p> <p><b>Invitations:</b> Prepare nice invitations for the event, and assign someone to mail ASAP.</p> |              |
| 3    | <p><b>Plan:</b> This week a more detailed plan for food and games need to be made and boys assigned responsibilities. Everything from who is bringing what to tablecloths, dinnerware, trivia or other games, etc.</p>                                                                                                                                             |              |
| 4    | <p><b>Fundraise:</b> Ask family, friends and parishioners to contribute to help pay for the costs of the social dinner party for priests. Purchase a thank you card that they can sign as well.</p> <p><b>Plan:</b> Continue to plan and check on previous assignments.</p>                                                                                        |              |

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| WEEK | STEPS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | WEEKLY THEME |
|------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| 5    | <b>Make cards:</b> Have all of the boys make cards for the priests and deacons. They should be thank you cards, and one for each quest. They should all sign each card and include a spiritual bouquet on it – a collection of how many rosaries and sacrifices that the boys promise to offer for them over the next few weeks.                                         |              |
| 6    | <b>Make presentation:</b> The boys should put on a presentation of their club activities over the past year – including video or pictures. They should also give personal testimonies. Ten minutes in the dinner schedule should be allowed at the beginning for the priests to pray Vespers together alone (the boys should be finishing up preparations at that time). |              |
| 7    | <b>Final Menu Plan:</b> Go over all aspects of the dinner social party – from what the boys will wear (should ideally dress up and wear a tie at the very least). Who is setting up, bringing what, and when. If cooking is to be done on site, preparation plans need to be made.                                                                                       |              |
| 8    | <b>Party:</b> The boys should be proper hosts and help prepare, cook, serve, run games and give a short presentation. Make sure they thank everyone for coming.                                                                                                                                                                                                          |              |

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

# TACTICS BY AREAS

**SERVES:  
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**TIME:  
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## LOCATION

The best place to do it is at family home of one of the boys on the team. If possible secure this before you announce this activity to the boys. It can also be at a rectory or a parish hall but that can be a bit more difficult. A dining room and a patio both work, it just varies by your local weather.

## PROVISIONS

- **Invitations:** The most important thing regarding these is to be clear and simple. Mention that it will be a night of good food and priestly fraternity, add that they should bring their breviary for Vespers.
- **Cards:** It is important that the boys prepare little thank you cards to present to the priests and deacons. There can be one for each guest, with all the boys signatures on it and spiritual bouquet offerings. Make an extra two or three in case a priest brings a guest that is not planned.
- **Food:** Make sure that the food is of high quality and class. Grilled sockeye with lemon basil sauce is a lot better than hot dogs. Items for fun activities such as a pool table, bean bag toss , trivia game, etc. should be prepared ahead of time and planned in the schedule. Make sure to plan for 2-3 extra guests that may arrive unplanned.
- **Dinnerware:** Make sure to use elegant dinnerware if possible. Paper plates and plastic cups are not the ideal.
- **Dress up:** Have the boys dress their best – this is a nice social dinner party that is also a learning opportunity for them to be on their best behavior.

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# TACTICS BY AREAS



## RESPONSIBILITIES

- Preparation: All the boys should be assigned to help with the planning, fundraising, preparing the invitations, cards, grocery shopping, etc.
- Cooking: If the boys can cook themselves, that would be great, although an adult may need to supervise. Do not be afraid to get the moms to help out with this project. They will ensure great success – just do not let them take over.
- Greeters: At least one boy needs to be out front from when the boys arrive until all the priests arrive, greeting them each as they come in. They can give each priest a parking spot and lead him to the rest of the crowd.
- Servers: At all times at least two boys should be serving, they should be constantly filling up the priests' water and offering them options to eat and drink. They should not get involved in the priests conversations unless asked to.
- Activities: Some boys should be in charge of the activities that are planned.
- Presentation: Some boys should also be presenters, talking about the club activities the past year and giving testimonies or even showing a video.

## CONTACTS

- Priests: You need to show them that you are really thankful for their service. Treat them with the same kindness as you show to Jesus. Be very gracious and let them converse on their things during the meal
- Benefactors: Show them how much the priests do for them. Offer this as their way to thank the priest. Present the benefactor card on a table during the dinner so the priests know who helped support the event and are also appreciative.

# PROJECT OVERVIEW

# DEBRIEFING

**SERVES:  
CHURCH**

**TIME:  
ANYTIME**

## SPECIAL OPS

- Be formal: The boys should dress up identically; ideally, black pants and a white shirt if possible. They could also all wear a tie. During the dinner, be friendly but do not show a false sense of reserve by being overly distant.
- Invite: Invite a good number of priests but not so many it is overwhelming for the family hosting the event.
- Alcohol: Make sure one adult is on hand to help with whatever alcoholic beverages you want to serve. Or leave them on a table for the priests to serve themselves. Boys should NOT serve alcohol because it creates the wrong image.
- Schedule: Try to stick to the schedule, but make sure the priests are comfortable. Give them ample time to converse and enjoy a good dinner with each other.

## CONTINGENCY PLAN

Other events to thank priests could be organized such as a fishing trip or golf game.

If you are in a school run by nuns or there are some locally you know of, they could use your gratitude as well.



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# APPENDICES

## EXAMPLE INVITATION LETTER TO PRIESTS



Holy Cross Conquest Group  
St. Louis, MO

Jan 2, 2015

Dear Father,

On behalf of Holy Cross Conquest Boys Club we cordially invite you to our:

**1st Annual Priest Appreciation Dinner**

Wednesday, Feb 23, 2015 at 6:30 pm

Holy Cross Church Parish Hall

St. Louis, MO 70177

Please RSVP to Todd Brechbill at 260-438-3042

We want to express our gratitude and appreciation to you and to all priests in our dioceses for your service to the church. In honoring your vocation we hope to inspire the young people attending to constantly discern God's will in their own vocations.

We would be honored by your presence and look forward to seeing you at the dinner.

Yours in Christ,

Todd Brechbill  
Holy Cross Conquest Boys Group Leader  
tbrechbill@bellsouth.net

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# APPENDICES

## EXAMPLE LETTER TO PARENTS OF BOYS IN CONQUEST



Holy Cross Conquest Group  
St. Louis, MO

Jan 2, 2015

Dear Conquest Parents,

You and your family are invited to attend our 1st Annual ***Priest Appreciation Dinner***. This special project will honor our Bishops and priests in our dioceses for the gift of their vocation and the graces we receive through them. It will be held on Wednesday, Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> at Holy Cross Parish in the parish hall. **Families are asked to be there by 6 pm.**

We would like to ask your help with the following:

**Spiritual Bouquet Contribution:** The club will be *presenting the Priests and Bishops with* a spiritual bouquet during the event. Please join us in offering your prayers or sacrifices for the Archbishops and priests by **submitting your sheet** to your Conquest Team Leader by **Feb 15th** (commitment sheet attached). Feel free to ask other family members or friends to add their intentions to this bouquet.

**Pot-Luck Dish:** To keep things simple, we ask that each Conquest family brings a main AND a side dish. The local women's Rosary guild at the parish will help by providing deserts for the dinner.

*(continued on next page)*

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# APPENDICES

## EXAMPLE LETTER TO PARENTS (CONTINUED)

**Invite and follow up with your Priests:** An invite will be mailed out this week to the majority of the Priests in our area; however, I am attaching a copy of the priest invite list in order for you to follow up with your Priests regarding his attendance or invite any other Priests you wish. (All are welcome!)

Thank you for your support of this project! It would not be possible without you. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Please RSVP by Feb 15<sup>th</sup> to 260-438-3042.

Yours in Christ,  
Todd Brechbill  
Holy Cross Conquest Boys Group Leader  
tbrechbill@bellsouth.net  
260-438-3042

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# APPENDICES

## EXAMPLE OF SPIRITUAL BOUQUET COMMITMENT FORM

### FAMILY SPIRITUAL COMMITMENT FORM

#### Ideas for Spiritual Bouquet Commitments

- Rosary
- Mass Intention
- Sacrifices
- Fasting
- Alms giving
- Adoration
- Indulgence

| Name of Individual or Family | Sacrifice/Prayer or commitment | Quantity Committed |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| (Ex. Smith Family)           | (Rosary)                       | (3)                |
|                              |                                |                    |
|                              |                                |                    |
|                              |                                |                    |
|                              |                                |                    |

\*\*\* Please return to your Conquest Team Leader by Feb 15<sup>th</sup>.



# APPENDICES

## DINNER ETIQUETTE TIPS FOR CONQUEST MEMBERS

- It is good table manners to not to touch anything on the table, including your napkin and beverages, until your host (in this case The Priest) sits down. Once your host has picked up their napkin you are free to do so.
- Simply place the napkin on your lap; avoid flapping it around on the way. It should not be tucked into your shirt like a bib.
- Your napkin should be used to dab your lips lightly during the meal and never use it to blow your nose. If you need to leave the table then simply place the napkin on your chair.
- When the bread arrives it is good dinner table etiquette to offer it to everyone else first, regardless of how hungry you are!
- Good table manners mean you do not begin eating until everyone is at the table and your host has started to eat.
- The salt and pepper should stay together as they move around the table, do not pass one without the other and always place them on the table rather than handing from guest to guest.
- Ask for food/drink to be passed to you; do not reach over people and do not put your own cutlery in serving dishes or sauces.
- Eat slowly and hold your knife and fork down between each bite, with the fork tines facing down onto the plate. It is also good dinner table etiquette to gage how fast everyone else is eating so that you can pace yourself appropriately – you do not want to be the first or the last to finish.
- Good table manners means no fidgeting during courses including peeling candle wax or labels off the bottle; it can be a sign of nervousness.
- Being invited for dinner also means that you are expected to “sing for your supper”; your conversation must be interesting and entertaining and you must make sure that both of your seated neighbors are equal parties to your sizzling conversation.
- One of the most important factors in determining how we come across to others is our posture. This does not mean you should sit completely upright and rigid, but it does mean you should sit up straight at the table, with both feet on the ground and not slumped.
- The most well known table manner rule is to not place your elbows on the table. You may rest your forearms on the table but not your elbows. Your elbows should be kept close to your sides so that you can control your arm movements. If you wish you can rest your hands in your lap.

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