



October 2007

Dear Friends,

The documentary *The Catholic Priest Today: A man of faith, a man of tradition, a man of God*, produced by Midwest Theological Forum, is designed to speak to all those who have an interest in the Catholic priesthood.

This film is a complement to *Fishers of Men*, produced by the USCCB. It is about priests living the great adventure of a life completely dedicated to Christ in His Body, the Church. It shows that the mission of a priest is built on a life of daily prayer and centered on the Eucharist. It illustrates the divine nature of his calling and how the priesthood is not a profession, although a priest pursues the highest professional standards in his pastoral work.

Many people who only see the priest at Sunday Mass may wonder about his day-to-day life. This documentary follows the lives of three actual priests through the course of an ordinary week. The film shows that those who accept the challenge of the priesthood in today's world realize that it is a *great time to be a priest*.

I would highly recommend the video to:

- Young men who are contemplating the priesthood
- Families whose sons are discerning a possible vocation
- All who are interested in the real lives of priests and desire to help them
- Those in the media and others who write and speak about the priesthood

"I will give you shepherds." (Jer. 3:15): God is the one who chooses priests, but we are given the opportunity to cooperate with God's work through our prayer, sacrifice and actions. May the Lord help us to help those He is calling to ordained priesthood.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Francis Cardinal George, OMI
Archbishop of Chicago