

There has been some confusion regarding the ending of the Year for Priests. We would like to offer the following clarification:

- There will be an international gathering of priests in Rome from June 9 - 11, 2010.
- However, we believe it is the intention of the Holy Father that the Year for Priests be a yearlong celebration, from June 19, 2009 through June 19, 2010.

From *L'Osservatore Romano*:

On Tuesday morning, 4 August, Cardinal Cláudio Hummes, Prefect of the Congregation for the Clergy, presided at Holy Mass in Ars, France, for the Memorial of St. John Baptist Mary Vianney on the 150th anniversary of his death. Numerous priests and pilgrims came from every corner of France for the celebration at the Shrine in the Saint's birthplace.

In his homily, with reference to the Year for Priests, Cardinal Hummes emphasized Benedict XVI's decision to celebrate the Year from the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart – also World Day of Prayer for the Sanctification of Priests – on 19 June 2009, to the same feast on the same date in 2010.

This decision, the Cardinal said, “makes clear straight away the spirit in which the Pope hopes we will live this Year for Priests: a spirit of sanctification.” For her part, the Church “wants to tell priests that she thanks God for them, that she admires and loves them, that she wishes to sustain them with her prayers, accompanies them in their journey of faithfulness, recognizes them, desires to help them in practice and to collaborate with them in their pastoral work.”

Cardinal Hummes also said that “since the whole Church is celebrating the special Year, every local event, no matter how small, should be lived in communion with the universal Church.”

The Cardinal then expressed the Holy Father's gratitude.

After noting that the world's priests would be meeting the Holy Father on 9 and 11 June 2010 at the International Congress in Rome, Cardinal Hummes then listed some characteristic features of the Hoy Curé d'Ars, from whom, he said, we can learn many lessons.