

## HOW I SERVE PRIESTS

We are all made for relationship with God which is where peace, joy, and happiness come from. The Gospel calls priests specifically to a special type of intimacy and friendship where the priest radically gives over his life to the Lord, allowing Him to live His sacrificial mysteries in the man. Priests are to surrender their lives to such a degree that they can say with St. Paul, "I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh, I complete what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the Church." (Col 1:24) This requires the priest to understand he is a beloved son of the Father in Christ. When he is moved by the love of the Father in this intimacy with Jesus, he finds the rest his heart desires and grace move's powerfully through his life and ministry radiating Christ to all the faithful regardless of his circumstances. I offer spiritual direction, inner healing, and deliverance ministry to help bring about this total surrender of a priest's life to our Lord.

### SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

"We pray as we live, because we live as we pray. If we do not want to act habitually according to the Spirit of Christ, neither can we pray habitually in his name." ~CCC 2725

I offer contemplative spiritual direction to priests. In Contemplative spiritual direction, we discover where God is pouring grace into the man's life so he can better receive and respond to this gift. As a man receives God's love, he will desire to love Him in return by habitually acting "according to the Spirit." This is how faith, hope, and love grow in the soul-with the end result of peace.

### INNER HEALING PRAYER

When a man's heart hurts, or he's been abandoned, abused, addicted, or rejected, he may feel angry, anxious, lonely, sad, unloved, or unwanted. Inner healing prayer is available to deal with these things. Jesus the Divine Physician, wants to encounter us precisely in the place of a man's pain and heal their wounds. I help the priests to open the pain to Him and receive His healing love so they can live a happy, joyous, and free priesthood.

### DELIVERANCE MINISTRY

Evil spirits are real and an ordinary part of Christian life and in Christ we can life free of their influence. Many priests though are caught in sin and patterns of thinking and behaving that are keeping them from an abundant life in Christ and a fruitful ministry. Some simply need spiritual direction and/or counseling to move ahead. Others, however, have been seeking support in all the right ways but have not made progress; they may need deliverance.

### RETREATS

I give priests individually-guided Ignatian retreats in abbreviated formats such as three, five, or eight days, as well as the thirty-day retreat. Any of these retreats I can also give in daily life, per the nineteenth annotation.

## TRAINING AND EQUIPPING

I help train and equip priests to give spiritual direction, healing and deliverance ministry, and all kinds of pastoral care in the Diocese of Lincoln. This happens mostly through consulting, supervision, and an apprentice-style model of teaching and guiding. There is so much more that our priests can do to assist the faithful in healing and deepening their interior lives than many realize. When a priest begins being a real father to his spiritual children, his heart comes alive and he finds the fulfillment his heart longs for in his vocation.

## **WILL YOU FINANCIALLY ADOPT ONE, TWO, OR EVEN THREE PRIESTS PER MONTH SO THEY CAN RECEIVE THE MINISTRY THEY NEED?**

We all want priests that truly look like Jesus and lead us to him. Just like so many others, I have been touched deeply by holy priests and hurt by broken ones. They must live in intimacy with Jesus if they are going to reveal his heart to us. **It Costs \$100 per session to provide spiritual direction, Inner Healing, deliverance ministry, and training & equipping.** Will you partner with me by financially by adopting one, two, or even three priests per month to help them learn to pray, find inner healing, and a deeper fruitfulness in their ministry?

## **Testimonial**

“I have known Matt Simmons for many years, as he has worked in many positions in our diocese. It is well known that Matt possesses many gifts in healing and deliverance ministries and in spiritual direction. Matt is well sought after by many clergy and lay faithful in Nebraska.

It has only been in recent years that I have personally worked side by side with Matt. He often asks me to do intercessory prayer during his deliverance sessions with clergy and lay faithful. I find that he has a deep knowledge and intuition of spiritual matters. I know of many priests and lay faithful who have personally benefited from his ministry. It is not uncommon that priests come up to me and say that their session with Matt was a turning point for their healing and deliverance. Assisting him has really been an educational experience for me. Often after a prayer session, Matt has been generous with his time in sharing his spiritual wisdom with me. I find that he is well read on the subject of Catholic spirituality. At times I do call him for spiritual advice on a particular issue for some person that I am working with.

I am privileged to write this testimonial for Matt. He is very dedicated to bringing healing to members of the Kingdom of God. In the last year, as many people know, our diocese has gone through various scandals. This has led priests of our diocese to seek out Matt for healing and deliverance. As I said above, priests are most grateful for Matt’s work to bring personal healing to their lives. Matt has been a great gift to our diocese in the current crisis. Many people would attest to that fact.”

— Fr. Joseph Steele, Chaplain of Madonna Hospital, Lincoln, Nebraska