

Catholic Prayers: A Prayer for Priests

Keep them, I pray You, dearest Lord,
Keep them, for they are Thine -
Your priests whose lives burn out before
Your consecrated shrine.
Keep them, for they are in the world,
Though from the world apart;
When earthly pleasures tempt, allure,
Shelter them in Your Heart.
Keep them, and comfort them in hours
O loneliness and pain,
When all their life of sacrifice
For souls seems but in vain.
Keep them, and O remember, Lord,
They have no one but Thee,
Yet they have only human hearts,
With human frailty.
Keep them as spotless as the Host,
That daily they caress;
Their every thought and word and deed,
Deign, dearest Lord to bless.