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Catholic Marketing Network

P R E S S R E L E A S E

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Vatican-designated "Year of the Priest" begins June 19th Award-winning songwriter and Grammy Award-winning producer create world class tribute, "Our Priests," in 2 languages

The Year of the Priest, decreed last March by Pope Benedict XVI to begin this Friday, June 19th until its conclusion at the World Meeting of Priests in St. Peter's Square June 19, 2010, should be met with celebrations that call for "the faithful ingenuity of the local churches," according to Cláudio Cardinal Hummes, Prefect for the Vatican's Congregation for the Clergy.

In a letter to priests around the world, Hummes encouraged priests and parishioners alike to recognize the importance of this special year, stating that "it would be good for every diocese and each parish and local community to establish, at the earliest opportunity, an effective program for this special year..."

Partial and plenary indulgences and blessings are available to priests and to the faithful alike who celebrate this jubilee year in accordance with established rules.

Responding to the Church's call to celebrate and merit the blessings of this jubilee year, the Catholic Marketing Network has identified and encouraged the production of a world class tribute in two languages, "Our Priests"/"Nuestros Sacerdotes" which is currently available on CD at Catholic book and gift stores, and will also be available for digital purchase on itunes, Amazon.com and most online retailers by July 1st.

"Our Priests"/"Nuestros Sacerdotes" has been adopted as the CMN's official theme song of the Year of the Priest, and can be sampled at www.OurPriests.com. "We're thrilled to be with this project," said CMN President Alan Napleton, "and couldn't be happier with the song that Come Alive Music has produced."

The reverent yet soul-stirring tribute features the solemn echo of church bells to the power and majesty of French horns and military drums. Mellow violins and energetic staccato cellos remind the faithful of the call of this important year, as the lyrics chime, "Our Priests! They are treasures! Their hands, our saving grace... Instruments of God, they must never be disgraced..."

In outlining the purpose of this jubilee year, Pope Benedict XVI indicated that the Year of the Priest was an effort to foster each priest's yearning "for spiritual perfection, upon which the effectiveness of their ministry principally depends." The Pontiff underlined the "indispensable struggle for moral perfection which must dwell in every authentically priestly heart," a theme that songwriter Joseph Lee Hooker had in mind when he wrote as part of the song's third verse,

Eyes upon the Saviour, guided by their vow
Strongly must they shepherd, yet humbly must they bow
Shining light from heaven, teaching truth sublime!
Reaching for perfection, touching the divine...

"Our Priests" was produced near Philadelphia, PA with the guidance of Grammy Award-winning producer and engineer, Phil Nicolo. The goal, stated Executive Producer Bridget Hylak, was to "produce a reverent, yet powerfully energizing production for youth and adults alike, which captured the mystery, the majesty and the charity of what it means to be a priest..."

Hylak further explained that, "Our goal, in our mind's eye, was to hear these lyrics and this orchestration wash over an army of dedicated and true priests as they process in St. Peter's Square... To have them know and feel the beauty and truth and importance of their calling, and perhaps, to inspire others to join them.

"At the same time," Hylak continued, "we wanted to keep this production simple and workable enough that it would easily fit into the context of local church celebrations and community events – which will perhaps be the most important and life-altering celebrations of all to honor this important year. That was the feel, the goal we were striving for, and one that we hope we achieved..."

The chorus, sprinkled with the voices of Catholic children, is equally suitable for large choirs to small congregations and cantors. The melody is simple yet masterful. In English or Spanish, the lyrics call, inspire and unite.

To assist local churches and individual congregations with the planning of their celebrations, the "Our Priests" CD has been developed as a tool that includes lyrics and instrumental tracks (English/Spanish) to the "Our Priests"/"Nuestros Sacerdotes" theme song. The instrumental track can be used by church choirs, cantors or soloists, played as the accompaniment, for a "Year of the Priest" celebration, tribute or liturgical event.

The CD also features the track "Totally Yours," a touching tribute to the departed Pope John Paul the Great. "Totally Yours," a bittersweet yet delightfully pleasant musical memorial to a remarkable pontiff, also includes the voices of Catholic children, lyrics and an instrumental track for use by church choirs, cantors or soloists. A sweet yet poignant harmonica solo beautifully carries the last bar of the song to eternity where the faithful imagine the departed Holy Father rests in peace.

The "Our Priests"/"Nuestros Sacerdotes" CD can be sampled or purchased online at www.OurPriests.com. Copies may also be obtained by contacting www.ComeAliveMUSIC.com, or at 610.869.3660. For additional information concerning the recording or promotional information, please contact the Catholic Marketing Network at 800-506-6333.