

# FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND PARTICIPATION

## The Prayer Group of the Holy Fathers

### The Apostleship of Prayer

The Apostleship of Prayer began in 1844 as a missionary thrust for young seminarians who wanted to be active on the foreign missions. These restless students eagerly responded to being *apostles of prayer* after the example of Jesus. For 30 years at Nazareth, Jesus was saving the world. What He did was to offer Himself to His Father in the daily living of His Father's will.

Just five years after it began, the new Association was approved by the local Bishop in France and by Pope Pius IX. More official Papal approvals followed which continue today.

Two years ago on the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Pope Benedict XVI praised the basic practice of the Apostleship of Prayer—"the offering of the day." The Pope was referring to the daily offering of your life to be a collaborator in Christ's mission.

The Pope also praised the members for praying for the intentions that he had proposed to the whole Church. The Holy Father was referring to his personal prayer intentions that he presents to the Apostleship of Prayer Association each month. The Popes have been doing this since Pope Leo XIII in the late 1880s. In this way it is 'The Prayer Group of the Holy Fathers' and numbers more than 40 million members. Besides the Pope's General Intention about a serious world cause, there is also a Mission Intention about an apostolic need.

The Apostleship of Prayer Association throughout the world publicizes and explains the Pope's Intentions in their periodicals like our Messenger of the Sacred Heart magazine with its uplifting stories and testimonials of satisfied prayer partners.

It's so easy to be a part of the Apostleship of Prayer. There are no registrations, no groups, no fees, no special meetings. Whether you belong to another organization or not, you only need to state your commitment to God for His purposes each day. By the morning offering you can consciously express your desire to unite your life with the life of Jesus, to place your heart into His heart. When you get up each day you pray, "All for You, O Jesus."

The Apostleship of Prayer opens your heart to a closer union with the Sacred Heart of Jesus with a daily response to His infinite love for you.

