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**For Immediate Release:**

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**3<sup>rd</sup> annual Rosary Bowl NW event celebrates “THE YEAR FOR PRIESTS”**

Portland, Oregon: On June 19<sup>th</sup> 2009 the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Pope Benedict XVI declared a “Year for Priests” celebrating the theme: Faithfulness of Christ, Faithfulness of Priests. The year also recognizes the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of St. John Vianney, the patron saint of priests. Recognizing the importance of such a year dedicated to our clergy and vocations the Rosary Bowl NW committee is promoting an event this year to bring families, prayer and the priesthood together all under one ROOF!

On Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> the Oregon State Fairgrounds Pavilion building will house the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Pray 2009 Rosary Bowl NW event from 8:30 am – 6 pm in Salem Oregon. The annual family prayer event promotes the motto popularized by Servant of God Fr. Patrick Peyton C.S.C: *“The family that prays together stays together & A World at Prayer is a World at Peace.”* Organized by Rosary Bowl NW Inc, the mission is to promote and encourage families to pray together, especially the daily family rosary. This year the special intentions include prayers for peace, the family and for priests.

The Rosary Bowl NW event began as a public recitation of the Family Rosary at Volcanoes Baseball Stadium in Keizer Oregon in 2007. With the possibility of adverse weather conditions, the Rosary Bowl NW committee decided to bring the event indoors to promote a greater attendance and to expand the program. This year’s annual event will be indoors at the Pavilion at the Oregon State Fairgrounds and feature Holy Mass with Bishop Kenneth Steiner at 10:30 am; Recitation of the Holy Rosary, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction at 12:30 pm; Guest speaker and Musician Michael John Poirier at 2 pm and a Divine Mercy Hour featuring the chaplet and music by Donna Cori Gibson at 3 pm. In addition to the Sacrament of the Eucharist begin offered for the first time, the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered as it has in the past. Confessions will be heard starting at 9 am while doors open for the event at 8:30 am. This year the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary will be offered with special intentions for priests and vocations. The day will conclude at 6 pm to leave time for fellowship.

This year another new possible addition is an “All-Volunteer” Rosary Bowl NW Choir. With the inclusion of the Holy Mass the need for community participation of music and liturgy is even more important. Last year Music director and composer David Phillips of Eugene participated in Rosary Bowl NW by offering selections of music during the Rosary. This year with the addition of the Holy Mass he has been invited back to

coordinate music for the Mass. He hopes the public will respond to the invitation for an "All-Volunteer Rosary Bowl NW Choir." According to Phillips, Music Director at St. Mary's Catholic Church and founder of Gentle Spirit Music; *"The idea of adding Holy Mass to the Rosary Bowl is awesome! If we can fill the Pavilion with beautiful music to Honor Our Lord Jesus in the most precious Sacrament of the Eucharist it will be the best gift we can offer His Blessed Mother Mary. I invite any parish choir directors and choir members to join this Volunteer Choir and bring your talents to the Rosary Bowl to glorify the Lord."*

Anyone interested in applying to be a volunteer choir member is asked to download the application from the website [www.rosarybowlnw.org](http://www.rosarybowlnw.org) and mail in the application by the September 14, 2009 deadline. Questions regarding the volunteer choir can be directed to: [dmarie@kbvm.fm](mailto:dmarie@kbvm.fm).

Rosary Bowl NW, INC. became a non-profit organization in 2008 with a mission to offer a rosary day annually to encourage and promote daily family prayer of the Rosary. Components of Rosary Bowl NW include: Holy Mass; offering prayer intentions for World Peace, Sanctity of all Human Life, The Family; public recitation of the rosary; exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction; Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Sacrament of Reconciliation during the event. The event has been endorsed by the Archdiocese of Portland Oregon and both the Holy Rosary and Holy Mass will be led by Bishop Kenneth Steiner.

The Rosary Bowl NW, Inc. committee consists of lay men and women from several parish and religious organizations in the Archdiocese of Portland who are interested in spreading the devotion of the Blessed Virgin Mary and promoting family prayer, especially the daily family Rosary. The website [www.rosarybowlnw.org](http://www.rosarybowlnw.org) was established in 2007 with ongoing information about the event including photos and frequently asked questions.

People from all faith backgrounds who wish to pray for peace, the family and our clergy are encouraged to attend, especially youth groups, church groups and families of all ages. Food concessions will be available and a community resource area will be open to explore prayer, family and faith resources. More than 200 volunteers from local Knights of Columbus councils including the Fourth Degree Honor Guard will be assisting in the event.

Parking and admission to The Rosary Bowl NW is free. However, in order to offset the expenses of the venue and an expanded program donations are being taken before the event as well as a free will offering taken at the event. Donations can be made at any time on the website [www.rosarybowlnw.org](http://www.rosarybowlnw.org) or by mail to: Rosary Bowl NW, PO Box 20023, Keizer, Oregon 97307. Rosary Bowl NW is a non-profit 501 C3 organization and strives to serve the people in the dioceses of Portland Oregon and Seattle Washington to increase the awareness of the Family Rosary and to promote the daily family rosary.

