

1 During his Visit to Britain in 1982, Pope John Paul II ordained some men as priests in Manchester. As we listen to the words he spoke, we can think of particular priests whom we know or have known:

2 *"You must be men of God,
his close friends.
You must develop daily patterns of prayer,
and penance
must be a regular part of your life.
Prayer and penance will help you
to appreciate more deeply
that the strength of your ministry
is found in the Lord
and not in human resources...
You must try to deepen every day
your friendship with Christ.
You must also learn to share
the hopes and the joys,
the sorrows and the frustrations
of the people entrusted to your care...
When you celebrate the sacraments
at the decisive moments of their lives,
help them to trust
in Christ's promised mercy
and compassion."*

3 *Let us pray for all priests whom we know:*

**God our Father, we pray
for those whom you have called
to serve your people as priests.
Every day
may they live in your presence
and deepen their friendship
with Jesus, your Son.
Fill them with your Spirit
and inspire them
to be faithful in prayer
and always place their trust in you.
May they grow in faith and compassion
as they celebrate
the Sacraments of your love
and bring good news to the poor
and healing to the broken-hearted.**

**Inspire them to live in such a way
that they are credible witnesses
of the transforming power
of your love,
as they share the hopes and the joys,
the sorrows and the frustrations
of those entrusted to their care.
Give them the gifts they need
to accompany your people
along the path of holiness. Amen.**

*"Try to deepen every day
your friendship with Christ."*

This is an excerpt from the page of this date in
'Praying Each Day of the Year',
a 3-volume book
by Nicholas Hutchinson, FSC.

For details:

<http://www.matthew-james.co.uk/>

Could make use of a search engine
to research this topic further.

This material is part of
the prayer and education website
of the De La Salle Brothers
in Great Britain:

www.prayingeachday.org