



How Can I Become a Spiritual Mom?

- Our first priority each summer is to find Spiritual Moms who prefer to be matched one-to-one and can attend Friends Night. Outside of those women, we encourage as many as possible to participate as general intercessors, no matter which diocese they represent. Our goal is to make the "dome of grace" as full and as strong as possible - to encourage and to protect all of the seminarians in their summer of prayer.
- If you have served as a Spiritual Mom for the IPF Summer Seminarian Program, you will receive an invitation in April, asking for those interested to contact our office.
- If you are new and would like to participate, the contact information is on the back of this pamphlet. The IPF website, at www.priestlyformation.org, is a great resource.

Expectations

- It is very important for the seminarians to commit to their summer of prayer without unnecessary interruptions. The first time a Spiritual Mom will make contact with her seminarian is at Friends Night toward the end of July.
- We strongly discourage establishing a "social" connection earlier in the summer which may become a distraction for the seminarians.
- Likewise, a Spiritual Mom is not obligated should the seminarian request financial assistance of any kind during the summer or at a later date. Remember, we are Spiritual Moms!
- After the summer is complete, some of the seminarians and Spiritual Moms continue a friendship. IPF neither encourages nor discourages longer term relationships.
- If a connection happens which is agreeable to both parties, what a blessing! If not, the prayers of faith-filled women provided a "dome of grace" which nurtured and protected the seminarians' vocations during their summer of mutual prayer.

For Further Information contact:

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INSTITUTE for PRIESTLY FORMATION
Hearts on Fire for Christ

Spiritual Moms



What is a Spiritual Mom?

A Spiritual Mom is any woman who commits to praying for seminarians during their time at the Institute for Priestly Formation's Summer Program for Diocesan Seminarians. We ask that Spiritual Moms pray one "Hail Mary" each day, throughout the nine week program either for her assigned seminarian or once for each of the seminarian participants.

Two Ways to Serve

- **One-to-One Intercessor:** One Spiritual Mom is matched with one seminarian. We request that the Spiritual Mom prays one "Hail Mary" for her seminarian each day during the nine week summer program and that she plans to attend Friends Night.
- **General Intercessor:** These Spiritual Moms receive a list in a calendar format with the names and dioceses of all the seminarian participants. If a mom prays for 2-3 seminarians per day, by the end of the summer program she will have prayed for each of the participants by name.



Weekly Updates

For those Spiritual Moms who wish to direct their prayer intentions more specifically, a weekly email will be sent with information regarding the seminarians' course of study that week and any desired graces or intentions from our staff. This information is also posted on IPF's website and can be mailed, if requested, at the beginning of the summer to anyone not using email.



Friends Night

Near the end of July, IPF hosts an evening of prayer and hospitality, where Spiritual Moms and Sons meet in person.

The evening begins with an hour of Eucharistic Adoration attended by both the seminarians and Spiritual Moms (as well as other supporters of IPF). After Adoration, all adjourn to a reception, where Spiritual Moms and their Sons meet for the first time. A short program follows, where seminarians and faculty share graces from their time spent at IPF.

There are always a few one-to-one Spiritual Moms unable to attend Friends Night at the last minute. General Intercessors can then "adopt" a seminarian for the evening to ensure that each seminarian has a Spiritual Mom to share the Friends Night with.



The History of IPF Spiritual Moms

On March 25, 2008, The Institute for Priestly Formation became a Public Association of the Faithful. A small group of women associated with IPF gathered together to celebrate with a luncheon. During this lunch, conversation centered around three topics:

- Celebrating IPF as a Public Association of the Faithful
- Pope Benedict XVI's call for spiritual mothers for all priests and seminarians, and
- Daily practice of one grandmother/mother praying one "Hail Mary" for each of her descendants.

Almost in unison, all 14 women in attendance agreed that the 150 seminarians arriving for the summer program in 24 days should have a Spiritual Mom. They contacted their prayer groups, friends, and families, and by the time the seminarians arrived, each had been assigned a Spiritual Mom.

After that year's program had ended, IPF faculty spoke of a "dome of grace" which had covered the program throughout the entirety of the summer. They attributed this "dome" to the prayers of the Spiritual Moms.