



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 these women, we encourage as many as possible to participate as general intercessors, no matter what diocese they represent. Our goal is to make the "dome of grace" as full and strong as possible, all across the country, to encourage and to protect all of the seminarians during their summer of prayer.
- If you have served as a Spiritual Mom in the past, you will receive a letter in April asking if you are interested in participating in this "prayer apostolate" again.
- If you are new and would like to be a part of this program, the contact information is on the back of this pamphlet.

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.
- It is important that the summer seminarians are not distracted during their time in the Summer Program, so we respectfully ask that Spiritual Moms do not make any contact with the seminarians until Friends Night. Likewise, seminarians are asked not to contact their Spiritual Mom for financial help or to meet socially.
- IPF neither encourages nor discourages longer term relationships. After meeting in person at "Friends Night", if there is a mutual agreement, the seminarian and Spiritual Mom may decide to keep in touch.
- As Spiritual Moms, our priority is to create a "dome of grace" that nurtures and protects the seminarians' vocations during their summer with IPF. This is our gift to them.

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.

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 **is available to attend Friends Night in July.**
- **General Intercessor:** These Spiritual Moms receive a list in a calendar format with the names and dioceses of all the seminarian participants. By the end of the summer program, she will have prayed for each of the participants by name. These Spiritual Moms are encouraged to attend Friends Night in July, but it is not required.



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.

On occasion, there are One-to-One Spiritual Moms that cannot attend Friends Night. General Intercessors would then be asked to "adopt" a seminarian for the evening. This ensures that each seminarian attending the event has a Spiritual Mom to share the evening 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.