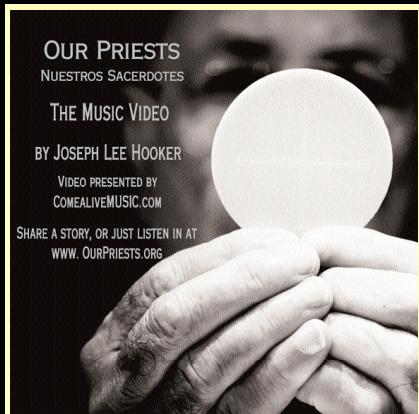


“OUR PRIESTS” CAMPAIGN RESPONDS TO THE HOLY FATHER’S CALL:

FEATURED IN L’OSSERVATORE ROMANO

PRESENTED IN PERSON TO HIS HOLINESS, POPE BENEDICT XVI, ON FEBRUARY 3, 2010



FEBRUARY 3, 2010, PHILADELPHIA, PA USA —

*OUR PRIESTS! THEY ARE TREASURES! THEIR HANDS, OUR SAVING GRACE...
INSTRUMENTS OF GOD! THEY MUST NEVER BE DISGRACED...*

INSPIRED BY THESE LYRICS TO A MOVING SONG WRITTEN YEARS AGO BY AN AMERICAN SINGER-SONGWRITER, ONE US-BASED MUSIC COMPANY JOINED FORCES WITH A CATHOLIC GRAMMY AWARD WINNER, THE CATHOLIC MARKETING NETWORK, AND CATHOLIC ENTITIES WORLDWIDE IN RESPONSE TO POPE BENEDICT XVI’S CALL FOR A “YEAR OF THE PRIEST.”

THE SONG, ENTITLED “OUR PRIESTS,” WAS JUST WAITING, IT SEEMED, TO BE PLUCKED FROM THE “DEMO” SHELF AND USED AS A CATALYST TO HONOR PRIESTS, INSPIRE VOCATIONS, AND RENEW THE FAITHFUL’S RESPECT AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE PRIESTHOOD.

“IT WAS THE LETTER WRITTEN BY HIS EMINENCE, CLÁUDIO CARDINAL HUMMES THAT REALLY MOVED US,” SAID BRIDGET G. HYLAK, A SPECIALIST IN CATHOLIC TRANSLATION, WHO COPRODUCED THE SONG. “WHEN THE CARDINAL ENCOURAGED ‘THE FAITHFUL INGENUITY OF THE LOCAL CHURCHES’

AND FOR ‘EACH PARISH AND LOCAL COMMUNITY TO ESTABLISH... AN EFFECTIVE PROGRAM’ FOR THIS JUBILEE YEAR, WE FELT CALLED TO DEVELOP ‘OUR PRIESTS’ INTO A TOOL THAT COULD BE USED BY PARISHES, YOUTH GROUPS OR OTHERS TO CELEBRATE THIS YEAR, AND TO HONOR PRIESTS AND INSPIRE VOCATIONS FOR YEARS TO COME.”

THE PHILADELPHIA-BASED COMPANY, COME ALIVE COMMUNICATIONS, INC., DECIDED TO INVEST ITS RESOURCES AND MANPOWER INTO A “WORLD-CLASS CAMPAIGN WORTHY OF THE PRIESTHOOD,” ACCORDING TO THE SONG’S AUTHOR AND LEAD VOCALIST, JOSEPH LEE HOOKER.

THE MOVING PRODUCTION, BEING DESCRIBED AS THE “ANTHEM OF THE PRIESTHOOD,” WAS OFFICIALLY RELEASED VIA ITUNES AND AMAZON.COM AT THE LAUNCH OF THE JUBILEE YEAR OF THE PRIEST, LAST JUNE 19TH, 2009. THE “OUR PRIESTS” MUSIC VIDEO, WHICH EVOLVED AS A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT OF OVER 100 CATHOLIC (ARCH)DIOCESES, ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS WORLDWIDE AFTER ITS DEMO SHOWING AT THE CMN’S “LUNCHEON FOR PRIESTS” AUGUST, 2009, IS AVAILABLE TO VIEW AS FREE STREAMING VIDEO ON THE ARCHDIOCESE OF BOSTON’S CATHOLICTV.COM.

“WHEN WE DEBUTED THE ROUGH CUT OF ‘OUR PRIESTS’ LAST AUGUST, WE WERE OVERWHELMED WITH THE RESPONSE. PRIESTS IN PARTICULAR SEEMED SO MOVED, SO FULL OF GRATITUDE,” STATES HYLAK, WHO IS ALSO THE SONGWRITER’S WIFE. “AT THAT POINT, WE KNEW WE HAD TO MAKE THE VIDEO BETTER, AND TO REPRESENT A TRUE ‘MOSAIC’ OF THE PRIESTHOOD. OUR GOAL WAS TO INCLUDE AS MANY ORDERS, RITES, COUNTRIES, AGES, COLORS AND DUTIES OF PRIESTS AS POSSIBLE, ACROSS THE SPECTRUM OF THE CHURCH UNIVERSAL, AND WITHIN THE CONFINES OF 5 MINUTES! WE ALSO MADE A POINT TO INCLUDE ALL 7 SACRAMENTS.”

THOUGH “OUR PRIESTS” WAS ORIGINALLY PRODUCED IN TWO LANGUAGES – ENGLISH AND SPANISH – A FERVENT CATHOLIC PARISH OVERSEAS REQUESTED AND OBTAINED PERMISSION FROM COME ALIVE TO TRANSLATE AND PRODUCE “OUR PRIESTS” IN A THIRD LANGUAGE, MALTESE, USING THE INSTRUMENTAL TRACK PROVIDED ON THE CD. “THEIR VERSION, SUNG BY THEIR ALTAR BOY CHOIR AND THEIR PASTOR, IS SO MOVING,” HYLAK SAID. “EVERYONE IS INSPIRED BY THE DEVOTION THAT WENT INTO THEIR RECORDING. WE ARE HOPING THAT OTHER LIKE-MINDED PARISHES MAY BE INSPIRED BY THEM, SO THAT WE CAN LINGUISTICALLY EXPAND THIS CAMPAIGN IN THE YEARS TO COME, IF IT IS GOD’S WILL.

“THIS EFFORT TO ENCOURAGE PRIESTS IS SO NEEDED, IT’S REALLY JUST BEGINNING,” HYLAK ADDED. “THE ‘OUR PRIESTS’ CAMPAIGN HAS BEEN USED IN SO MANY CREATIVE WAYS - AT RETREATS, DINNERS AND TRIBUTES AROUND THE WORLD, BY SMALL AND LARGE GROUPS ALIKE – THAT WE ARE AMAZED, REALLY, AND SO HUMBLLED.”



Fr. Jean Luc Zadruga, OSB, and laity express gratitude to “Our Priests” creators after an emotional debut at the CMN’s “Luncheon for Priests” August 2009 (Photo: Roger Roy)



Mons. Carmelo Refalo presents “Our Priests” CD and DVD to Holy Father Benedict XVI, Feb. 3, 2010 (Photo: Fotografia Felici, delivery pending)

AN APOSTOLIC BLESSING WAS CONFERRED UPON THE EFFORTS AND INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN THE “OUR PRIESTS” PROJECT ON FEBRUARY 3RD, 2010 – A BITTERSWEET DATE FOR ITS AUTHORS. “OUR FIRSTBORN SON, LUKE JOHN, DIED OF CANCER EXACTLY 13 YEARS AGO TO THIS DATE,” STATED THE SONGWRITER. “THE TEARS OF GRATITUDE WE SHED ON HEARING OF THE APOSTOLIC BLESSING MIXED IN A BEAUTIFUL WAY WITH TEARS OF HEALING OVER MEMORIES OF GIVING OUR SON BACK TO GOD. IT WAS AS IF WE HAD RECEIVED A KISS FROM THE LORD AND OUR SON IN HEAVEN. OUR HOLY FATHER TRULY TOUCHED US BEYOND WORDS WITH HIS BLESSING, THE TIMING OF WHICH WAS SO DIVINELY INSPIRED.”

“OUR PRIESTS” HAS BEEN BROADCAST WORLDWIDE, THANKS TO FURTHER COLLABORATION BY ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS EWTN, THE USCCB, THE ARCHDIOCESES OF NEW YORK AND PHILADELPHIA, SIRIUS RADIO, AND THE WORLD FAMILY OF RADIO MARIA. THE “OUR PRIESTS” CD ALSO FEATURES THE SONG, “TOTALLY YOURS,” A POIGNANT YET DELIGHTFUL MUSICAL TRIBUTE TO POPE JOHN PAUL II, CURRENTLY BEING PRODUCED INTO A MUSIC VIDEO IN ANTICIPATION OF THE PONTIFF’S UPCOMING BEATIFICATION ON APRIL 2ND.

PHONE: 610.869.3660 • WWW.OURPRIESTS.ORG • WWW.NUESTROSSACERDOTES.ORG

HONOR A PRIEST. ENCOURAGE A PRIEST. THANK A PRIEST. BE A PRIEST.