

APPRECIATION OF PASTORS

Pastor Joe: There is one body and one Spirit—just as we were called to one hope when you were called—one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all (Eph. 4:4-6). God gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up (Eph. 4:11-12).

Congregation: We praise God for our pastors who have and continue to touch our lives through their unselfish service, loving ministry, and faithful adherence to God's Word. We also thank you for blessing their family—who sacrifice time, fun, and elements of privacy, and offer wellsprings of support through hours of listening; and just being there in our failures and successes.

Pastor Manny: I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service. The grace of our Lord is poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus (1 Tim. 1:12, 14).

Congregation: We always thank our God for you, mentioning you in our prayers. We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Thess. 1:2-3).

Pastor Lambert: I have taught you with confidence because of the grace God gave me to be a minister of Christ Jesus to you with the priestly duty of proclaiming the gospel of God, so that you might become an offering acceptable to God, sanctified by the Holy Spirit (Rom. 15:15-16).

Pastor Dan: As I experience your word today, may it teach me and reach me in a new way so that I can better live out the call you have in my life. May I accept God's loving leadership as the model and means for being Christian followers and leaders committed to unconditional love for our neighbors and for ourselves, that we may lead others in the walk of Christ..

Congregation: We are fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone (Eph. 2:19-20).

Pastor Mark: Praise God! He set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand (Ps. 40:2). He has endowed me with strength to meet challenges from within and without.

Congregation: Bless, O God, our pastors and their families as they navigate their sacred journey and calling with ingenuity, patience, clear discernment of their ministry; and being rooted and established in love, they may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge that we all may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God (Eph. 3:17-19)

Pastors: Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come (2 Cor. 1:21-22)

All: O Shepherd Divine, Giver of good gifts, grant us always an appreciation of the many gifts of the Body of Christ, not just particularly this month, but always—an appreciation our pastors as, by your grace, we fulfill our sacred mission to love God, love others, and make disciples.

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