

FEAST OF ST. JOHN VIANNEY
AUGUST 4, 2020

The life of St. John Vianney is an example for us that God often works in and through us in very unexpected ways. St. John was born to a peasant family in Lyons, France in 1786. He was uneducated and therefore not considered to be a good candidate for the priesthood, but with the help of a private tutor he was accepted into the seminary, but he had difficulty with his studies.

With reservations on the part of the seminary faculty and the bishop, he was ordained a priest and served briefly in his home parish. He was then named the parish priest of Ars, a small parish of 250 people. Due to his limited capabilities, the bishop wanted to assign him to as small and remote a parish as possible. Yet, it was there in Ars where St. John's extraordinary gifts as a confessor developed. He had the ability to read souls and he would sit in the confessional as much as 10 - 18 hours a day. As his reputation spread, people came to him from all over France and elsewhere.

When he died in 1859 he was known as one of the most beloved figures in France. He was canonized a saint in 1925 and declared the patron of parish priests.

Happy Feast Day!

On this Feast of St. John Vianney, patron of parish priests, I would like to share with you a message from Bishop Tobin on diocesan social media:

"The Providence Diocese is welcoming 8 new seminarians this year, the most new seminarians in almost 40 years, I'm told! Pray for our seminarians, including the new students. God said, "I will give you shepherds," and indeed He is!

And our seminarians are exceptional young men with diverse backgrounds and experiences - very strong candidates for the priesthood. Fully aware of the challenges they face, they want to help the Church and bring the perennial Good News of Jesus Christ to our troubled world!"

Jesus reminds us that "The harvest is great, but laborers are few." Please pray for vocations to the priesthood and all ministries within the Church.

God Bless!

Father Joe