



*Clergy
Appreciation
Week*

*Working together. . . making
a world that is richer in love.*

A project of Civitan International

Clergy Appreciation Week

In a time of war 62 years ago four men made the ultimate sacrifice, witnessed by many of their fellow soldiers. Their sacrifice inspired members of the Albuquerque Breakfast Civitan Club and later, Civitan International, to establish this day to honor the clergy of all faiths.

Clergy Appreciation Week is a significant event throughout Canada and the United States. The continued efforts of Civitan clubs to show appreciation to the clergy of all faiths is well appreciated by your community and by the clergy you honor.

The week is annually observed by Civitan clubs during the week of February 3. It is a special time of appreciation for ministers serving their communities. The time of the observance was selected to coincide with the sinking of the military troopship *USS Dorchester* on February 3, 1943. At that time four chaplains willingly gave their lifejackets to soldiers who did not have one, thus sacrificing their lives so that others could live.

All citizens benefit from the presence of the community's ministers, priests, and rabbis. Honoring the clergy is your club's opportunity to express gratitude for the services given by our clergy. Clergy Appreciation Week has been sponsored by Civitan clubs since 1960. The Albuquerque Breakfast, New Mexico, Civitan Club founded this event. Since then Civitan clubs have spread this idea throughout their communities.

Clergy Appreciation Week is

one of the great ideas that has come from Civitan. So many times people forget to thank the clergy who spend their lives serving us and our communities through the ministry.

Begin your club's plans for Clergy Appreciation Week in your community today. Share the following information with your Clergy Week Committee and make this year's Clergy Appreciation Week the best event in the history of your club.

CLERGY WEEK TIPS

Each year Civitan clubs honor the clergy of their communities. Traditionally, these celebrations occur during the week of February 3. This annual observance has been instrumental in helping to make the community aware of the need to thank the clergy who serve our communities.

As the chair of Clergy Appreciation Week, you have been given the responsibilities for planning an appropriate program. You will want your club's celebration to be one that increases public awareness of the dedicated services of the clergy and give your club members a feeling of pride through their participation in this international event. Most of all you will want your club's program to express gratitude to the clergy you honor.

With effective planning by you and your committee, you can easily achieve these goals. Following are some suggested action plans to assist you.

Choose an enthusiastic com-

mittee. Enlist people who are interested in helping you present the finest program possible. Perhaps there are club members who have worked before on this program. Use their talents again for this year's celebration. There are new people in your club who could provide new insights and new ideas.

Plan with your committee. It is important for all committee members to have input into your planning session. This enables you to hear many different ideas and approaches before selecting the type of program your committee will present. It is necessary for the committee to have an overall view in order to complete individual assignments. Choose the approach which best fits your community. Try contacting your local ministerial association for suggestions on appropriate ways to honor the clergy.

- ❖ Should you honor all the clergy in your city?
- ❖ Do you need to work in cooperation with other Civitan clubs to cover your area? (Consider the possibility of enlisting the cooperation of other community service clubs and make the celebration larger and more comprehensive.)
- ❖ Should you honor only those clergy represented by your own club members?
- ❖ Do you want to select one honoree and name him as an outstanding member of the clergy in your community?

SET GOALS

Clergy Appreciation Week

Now that your committee has an overall plan, it is necessary to set specific goals. These specific goals will provide an action program for your committee. Assign members to complete goals. Set time limits for goal completion. An example would be:

Committee Member Jim Thomas
Task Prepare/mail clergy invitations
Completion Date January 9, 2004

Committee Member Sue Moore
Task Prepare News Releases
Completion Date January 9, 2004

Each club will have its own set of goals, depending on the type of program presented by the club. Some suggested goals for your committee are:

- ❖ Arrange to have proclamations issued by leading public officials. District governors and Region directors may be the key people to help secure state or provincial recognition. Civitan clubs should also secure the endorsement of city officials.

- ❖ Decide on supplies needed from Civitan International and order early (at least four to six weeks prior to the meeting).

- ❖ Clergy Appreciation Week is an excellent opportunity for your club to receive media attention. We have included a sample proclamation, press release, and public service announcement. The copies enclosed are just samples; you will need to retype them,

adding the necessary local information, before you use them.

Also attached is a church bulletin insert which tells the story of the *USS Dorchester* and the four clergymen. Order additional copies from the Supply Department at International. Following your club's Clergy Appreciation Week observance, send thank you cards to all of the people who participated, to each clergy who attended, and especially to all of the members of your Clergy Appreciation Week Committee.

A supply order form is enclosed with some of the items you might need for your Clergy Week celebration. Allow ample time for delivery. For speedy delivery, we suggest you FAX your order to Civitan at (205) 592-6307 or Email your order to supply@civitan.org

Plan an effective program for the day your club honors the clergy. The following agenda may be helpful, but do what is best for your local celebration.

Suggested Agenda Clergy Week Observance

Appropriate Opening Ceremony:
Invocation
Pledge
Thought for the day, etc.

Meal and fellowship

Club president will introduce
Clergy Appreciation Week chair
who will serve as master of

ceremonies.

Eliminate all business matters and announcements.

Read *The Civitan Creed*.

Introduce all guests.

Read the proclamations issued by public officials.

Present the story of Clergy Week, including information on the four chaplains and the purpose of the observance.

Present the person who will introduce the speaker.

Speaker presents program.

Clergy Week chair presents certificates of appreciation to the clergy.

Clergy Week chair expresses appreciation to all the people who helped with the event and turns program over to president.

President concludes the meeting.

FOLLOW-UP

Be sure an official "thank you" is sent to everyone participating in your Clergy Week observance. As chair of your committee, be sure to thank each member of your committee, individually, for a job well done. If a special proclamation is obtained, thank the person issuing the proclamation for his or her help in making your Clergy Week celebration a success.

Clergy Appreciation Week

Sample News Release

FOR RELEASE: _____ (DATE)
CONTACT: _____ (NAME)
_____ (PHONE NUMBER)

CIVITANS HONOR CLERGY

The _____ Civitan Club is honoring local clergy during Clergy Appreciation Week, (insert date).
(NAME OF CLUB)

_____, president of the club, said the club will recognize clergy of all faiths during its _____ meeting. The meeting will begin at _____ at _____.
(PRESIDENT'S FULL NAME) **(DATE OF MEETING)** **(TIME)**
_____. Special guests will include _____.
(LOCATION OF MEETING) **(LIST ALL CLERGY ATTENDING)**

Clergy Appreciation Week began as a commemoration of the death of four military chaplains during World War II who were aboard the troopship, the *USS Dorchester*. The ship was torpedoed in the North Atlantic and the chaplains helped to quiet the soldiers, finally giving their lives when they gave their life jackets to soldiers.

"This time is set aside each year," said _____, "to remember this heroic deed and pay tribute to all clergy who dedicate themselves to making this a better world."
(PRESIDENT'S LAST NAME)

Civitan is a worldwide civic service organization. Its purpose is to provide its members with opportunities for personal and professional development while providing service to the community. For more information, call

_____ at _____.
(NAME) **(TELEPHONE NUMBER)**

Clergy Appreciation Week

Sample Public Service Announcement

FOR RELEASE: _____ (DATE)

CONTACT: _____ (NAME)

_____ (PHONE NUMBER)

CLERGY APPRECIATION WEEK PSA

:30

THE _____ CIVITAN CLUB WILL JOIN OTHER CIVITAN CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS
(CLUB NAME)

AROUND THE WORLD IN HONORING CLERGY OF ALL FAITHS DURING CLERGY APPRECIATION WEEK,

(insert date). THE CLUB'S CLERGY APPRECIATION PROGRAM WILL BE HELD ON _____ AT
(DATE)

_____ AT _____ . FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT
(TIME) (PLACE)

_____ WITH THE _____ CIVITAN CLUB AT
(NAME) (CLUB NAME) (PHONE NUMBER)

_____ .

Clergy Appreciation Week

Sample Proclamation

WHEREAS, on February 3, 1943, four chaplains aboard the sinking troopship *USS Dorchester* gave their lives so others might live; and

WHEREAS, Civitan clubs have taken the initiative to set aside a special time to recognize and honor these and modern day clergy of all faiths; and

WHEREAS, ministers, priests, and rabbis have dedicated their lives to service; and

WHEREAS, many citizens benefit from the presence and work of clergy in the community;

NOW THEREFORE, I _____, mayor of the city of
(FULL NAME OF MAYOR)

_____, do hereby designate the week of (insert date) as
(CITY NAME)

Clergy Appreciation Week

and encourage the citizens of _____ to show their appreciation and
(CITY NAME)

support for the clergy whose efforts make this community a better place in which to live.

In Witness Whereof,

Clergy Appreciation Week

Four Men of God



George L. Fox was the oldest of the chaplains. In Vermont they called him “*The Little Minister*” because he was only five feet, seven inches tall. In 1917 he lied about his age and enlisted in the Marines as a medical corps assistant, winning a Silver Star for rescuing a wounded soldier from a battlefield of poison gas. He did not have a gas mask on. He won the French *Croix de Guerre* – and months in a hospital with a broken spine – for outstanding bravery in an artillery barrage.

When he came home, he continued his education and became a public accountant as he had planned. He was successful, happily married, with two children. One evening he came home from work and told his wife he wanted to study for the ministry. She approved, so George Fox became a minister.

When war came again he told his wife, “I’ve got to go, I know from experience what our boys are about to face. They need me.” Once again George L. Fox went off to war.

Before he boarded the *Dorchester*, he wrote a letter to his daughter. She received it after the news that the ship was torpedoed. “I want you to know,” he wrote, “how proud I am that your marks in school are so high — but always remember that kindness, charity and courtesy are much more important.”



Alexander D. Goode was too young for World War I. He was receiving medals at Eastern High School, Washington, D. C., for tennis, swimming, and track. He led his class in scholarship, too.

He planned to follow in his father’s footsteps and become a Rabbi, but that did not keep him from having a fun-loving, out-going boyhood with all the Protestant and Catholic boys in the neighborhood.

When the body of the Unknown Soldier was brought to Arlington National Cemetery, Alexander Goode attended the ceremonies. He could just as well have ridden that 15 miles – there were trolleys and busses in Washington, and the Goode family had a fine family car. But he thought it showed more respect to walk; and walk he did – all the way to Arlington and all the way back home . . . 30 miles. That was how he felt about the Unknown Soldier.

He married his childhood sweetheart, and they had four children. One day in 1943 Mrs. Goode received a telegram from her husband . . . “Having a wonderful experience,” it read, and then Mrs. Goode knew that her husband had found warm companionship with the men with whom he could share his faith and his laughter.

“Valor is a gift. Those having it never know for sure whether they have it until the test comes.”

Carl Sandburg

Clergy Appreciation Week



Clark V. Poling was the youngest of the chaplains. His first letter was written to his Father in square block printing. His Mother addressed it. The letter found Dr. Poling in 1918 on the Western Front of World War I. The letter read: "Dear Daddy: Gee, I wish I was where you are. Love, Clark." And in 25 years, that eager little boy received his wish.

Clark was the seventh generation in an unbroken line of ministers. He was ordained in a Dutch Reformed Church (Presbyterian Church) and assigned to a pulpit in Schenectady, New York. He married a girl named Betty and they had one little boy, Corky. A little girl was born to Mrs. Poling after the *Dorchester's* sinking.

When the war came along he did not want to go as a Chaplain. "I can carry a gun as well as the next guy," he told his Father. "I'm not going to hide behind the Church in some safe office out of the firing line."

"I think you're scared," the elder Poling joked. "Don't you know the mortality rate of the Chaplains is the highest of any? The only difference is, you can't carry a gun to kill anyone yourself." And so Clark Poling became a Chaplain.

Just before Clark sailed he visited his father and said; "Dad, do not pray for my safe return – just pray that I do my duty . . . that I shall be adequate." Dr. Poling said that was the prayer he prayed.

And so these four men – Protestant, Catholic, Jew, from four different towns – the country boy from Vermont; the city boy from Washington; the slum kid from Newark; and the parson's son from New York City – met on the *Dorchester*. It was a rendezvous with God. As they prayed, their voices rose above the cold, black, churning water: "Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done . . ." The hand of God plucked these four men from their parishes and set them together in an act of heroism that inspires people of goodwill today and forever.

This information was written by Dovie Yeatts Install, who adapted this article from the books *Ted Malone's Favorite Stories* and *Faith is Power for You* by Daniel A. Poling.



John P. Washington was a little Irish boy from Newark, New Jersey. Things were not always easy for the family of Irish immigrants. Things usually are not easy for people who are poor, but Johnny had his Father's Irish grin and his Mother's Irish ability to stick to a job, so Johnny sold newspapers.

He liked to play ball as much as any other boy on his block, but if he took time off from his newspaper route, it was just so many pennies less to take home to Mom. There were nine mouths to feed in the Washington household. Johnny loved music and sang in the church choir, and became an altar boy.

And Johnny was always laughing, right through his training as a priest and after being ordained. He played ball in the streets with the boys from his parish; he organized baseball teams, and when the war came along and his boys went into the Army, Father Johnny went right along with them as a matter of course.

He received his appointment as a chaplain shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor. He attended chaplains school at Harvard with fellow Chaplains George L. Fox, Alexander D. Goode, and Clark V. Poling.

They say that when the *Dorchester* went down, he was still laughing, singing, and praying to comfort those who could not reach a lifeboat.

Clergy Appreciation Week

CIVITAN INTERNATIONAL ● P. O. BOX 130744 ● BIRMINGHAM, AL 35213-0744

District No. _____ Club No. _____ Date _____

Club/District Name: _____

Ship To: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State/Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Charge My (select one): Civitan Club District Discover/Novus MasterCard Visa

Credit Card Number Expiration Date _____

For UPS shipments, use full street address and indicate whether this is business or residential.

Business Address Residential Address

Quantity	Item No.	Description	Price	Total
	H635	Clergy Week Inserts, pkg. of 100	\$ 4.50	
	N717	Clergy Appreciation Certificate, 8.5 x 11 inches	\$ 1.75	
	H634	Program Cover Folder, pkg. of 100	\$ 10.00	
	B36	Name Tags, pkg. of 50	\$ 6.00	
	G612	Place Cards, pkg. of 50	\$ 6.00	
	H631	Place Mats, pkg. of 50	\$ 10.00	
	G610	Guest Luncheon Card, pkg. of 100	\$ 7.00	
	G611	Member Luncheon Card, pkg. of 100	\$ 8.00	
	R516	Golden Ruler	\$ 9.50	

Give street address for UPS shipments. Minimum order accepted is \$10.00. Shipping charges will be added to invoice. No individual accounts are accepted except by MasterCard, Visa, or Discover/Novus. Complete numbers must be given. Allow four to six weeks delivery. Invoice will be mailed to billing contact.

Telephone: (205) 591-8910; FAX: (205) 592-6307; E-mail: supply@civitan.org

Signature _____