



*Clergy
Appreciation
Week*

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

A project of Civitan International

Clergy Appreciation Week

January 29 – February 4, 2006

More than 60 years ago, four men made the ultimate sacrifice in a time of world war. The sacrifice of their lives, witnessed by many fellow soldiers, inspired Civitans in the Albuquerque Breakfast Civitan Club (Albuquerque, New Mexico), and later, Civitan International, to establish this day to honor all clergy.

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 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 people benefit from the presence of ministers, priests, and rabbis. Honoring the clergy is your club's opportunity to express gratitude for the services given by the 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 around the world.

Clergy Appreciation Week is one of the great ideas that has come from Civitan. So many times people forget to offer words of thanks for those 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. This celebration usually occurs during the week of February 3, but can be held at another time. The observance has helped to make the community aware of the need to thank the clergy serving our communities.




As the chair of Clergy Appreciation Week, you have been given the responsibility to plan an appropriate program. Your club's celebration should increase public awareness of the dedicated services of the clergy and give Civitans 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 your committee, you can easily achieve these goals. Following are some suggested plans to assist you.

Choose an enthusiastic committee. Try to enlist members who are really 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. All committee members need to have input into your club's plans. This enables you to hear many different ideas and approaches before selecting the type of program your committee will present.

The committee should have an overall view in order to complete individual assignments. Choose an 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 more comprehensive.)
-  Should you honor only those clergy represented by your own club members?
-  Do you want to select one person and name him as an outstanding member of the clergy in your community?

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SET GOALS

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, 2006

Committee Member Susan Moore
Task Prepare News Releases
Completion Date January 9, 2006

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 a leading public official (i.e. mayor). District governors and Region directors may be the key people to help secure state or provincial recognition. A club should also secure the endorsement of city officials.
-  Decide on supplies needed from Civitan International and order early (at least 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, 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 proclamations issued by public officials (mayor/governor)

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.

Guest speaker (not a minister)

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 closes 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.

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Sample News Release

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

CIVITANS HONOR CLERGY

The _____ Civitan Club is honoring local clergy during Clergy Appreciation Week, January 29 — February 4.
(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)**

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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 ORGANIZA-
(CLUB NAME)
TIONS AROUND THE WORLD IN HONORING CLERGY OF ALL FAITHS DURING CLERGY APPRECIATION
WEEK, JANUARY 29 – FEBRUARY 4. THE CLUB'S CLERGY APPRECIATION PROGRAM WILL BE HELD ON

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

CONTACT _____ WITH THE _____ CIVITAN CLUB AT
(NAME) (CLUB NAME)

(PHONE NUMBER)

-30 -

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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 January 29 – February 4, 2006 as
(NAME OF CITY)

Clergy Appreciation Week

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

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

In Witness Whereof,

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Four Men of God



George L. Fox

George Fox was the oldest chaplain. 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 Croix de Guerre — and many months in a hospital with a broken spine — for outstanding bravery in an artillery barrage.

When George Fox came home to Vermont, 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."

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 and charity and courtesy are much more important."



Alexander D. Goode

Alexander Goode was too young for World War I. While George Fox was winning medals on the battlefields of France, Alexander Goode was receiving another kind of medal at Eastern High School in 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 laughing, fun-loving, outgoing 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 — after all there were trolleys and busses in Washington, and the Goode family had a family car. But Alexander 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 is how he felt about the *Unknown Soldier*. Even when training for his calling, he joined the National Guard and kept up an active membership.

He married his childhood sweetheart, and they had four children. After he got his synagogue, he felt he still was not

worthy. He would know better how to heal men's souls if he knew how to heal their bodies, too, and so for three years he drove every day to Johns Hopkins University, 45 miles away, for his medical degree.

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 a warm companionship with the men with whom he could share his faith and his laughter.



John P. Washington

In Newark, New Jersey, there was once a little Irish boy named Johnny Washington. Things were not always easy in an Irish immigrant family. Things usually are not easy for people who are poor, but Johnny had his father's Irish grin and his Mother's Irish stick-to-itiveness, and 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

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choir, and Johnny loved to fight. It must have been about the time he decided to become a priest that he was leader of the South Twelfth Street boys in Newark, a position that required not only moral suasion but, on occasion, a black eye and bloody nose.

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.

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



Clark V. Poling

Clark Poling was the youngest of the chaplains. Clark's 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 the first World War. 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." So Clark Poling became a Chaplain.

Just before Clark Poling sailed, he visited his father to ask a special request:

"Dad, do not pray for my safe return — just pray that I do my duty. . . and that I shall be patient. . . 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 death — but it was also a rendezvous with God and their voices rose above the cold, black, churning water in unison:

*Our Father . . . which art in heaven
. . . hallowed by thy name, thy
kingdom come, thy will be done
on Earth as it is in heaven.*

The hand of God plucked these four men from their parishes and set them together in an act of heroism that continues to inspire us today.

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

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

District No. _____ Club No. _____ Date _____

Club/District Name: _____ Telephone No. _____

Ship To: _____

Street Address: _____

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

Charge My (select only one): Club District or Charge my credit card:
 American Express Discover/Novus MasterCard Visa

Credit Card Number: _____ Exp. Date _____ V-Code _____

Name as it appears on charge card: _____

Card Billing Address/Postal Code _____

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	
	G610	Guest Luncheon Card, pkg. of 100	\$ 7.00	
	G611	Member Luncheon Card, pkg. of 100	\$ 7.00	
	R516	Golden Ruler	\$ 9.50	

Give street address for UPS shipments. Shipping charges will be added to invoice. No individual accounts are accepted except by American Express, Discover/Novus, MasterCard, or Visa. Complete numbers must be given including the 3-Digit V-code on Visa or MasterCard or the 4-Digit Code for American Express or Discover. Give name as it appears on charge card. 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 _____
(REQUIRED)