

Seven Sisters Apostolate
Appreciated and Loved quilt project
Hearts of prayer + Hands of service
QuiltsbySevenSisters@gmail.com

*Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.
... It is the Lord Christ you are serving. – Colossians 3:23, 24b*

Mission: To enfold individual retired priests in the mantle of Holy Hours of prayer through the Seven Sisters Apostolate, while at the same time blessing each with a unique hand-fashioned lap quilt as a tangible reminder.

Getting started: An interested Quilter contacts Apostolate Quilting Project Coordinator through QuiltsbySevenSisters@gmail.com Quilter may suggest a retired priest recipient or be given the option to receive the name of a priest from Coordinator. If name is given, a small description of the priest's previous and/or present ministry is included and a photo, if available.

Design patterns can be suggested/discussed that would prove fitting to the interests/personality of each priest. Coordinator will assist Quilter to ascertain what is needed to successfully complete the quilt.

The work: Can be done as an individual or as a group, meeting together and/or dividing tasks appropriate to individual skills and expertise (e.g. cutting, piecing, sewing, hand stitching, embroidering, quilting). **Integral to the work is prayer** – before, during and upon completion. If the priest does not have an active Seven Sister group at the starting of a quilt, this is a fundamental goal and can be actively prayed for during the work of the quilting. While there is no known patron of Quilters, St. Veronica, is patron of Seamstresses, and can be called upon for help! May the compassion and love of St. Veronica towards Jesus during his Passion be emulated by all those sewing quilts and praying for our retired priests.



St Veronica, *pray for us!*

Dimensions of Quilts: Throw/lap size (approximately 50" x 60") – will vary with pattern choice.

Label: Black rectangle (7" x 4") with square of white fabric sewn atop to reflect a Roman collar or if someone has an embroidery machine, the white square could be embroidered along with the wording. Label, with Miraculous medal under it, to be affixed to back of quilt in lower corner. Each label should contain this info using white thread:

[Priest's name]
Appreciated and Loved
by Seven Sisters Apostolate
[Month Year]

Presenting the quilt: Ideal is presenting the quilt from the priest's Seven Sisters prayer group Anchoress (may include the Seven Sisters group members). The Quilter may be given the option to be included as well. If suitable, the presentation may serve as a time of fellowship and visiting with the priest. If the circumstance of the priest's health does not allow visitors, the quilt may be presented by another designated individual (*e.g.* health care worker, family member or another priest who may be allowed visitation).

If the priest did not previously have a Seven Sisters prayer group, names of members in the newly-formed group will be presented to the priest by the Anchoress **at the same time** the quilt is given to him. Literature (such as a brochure) should be offered to the priest regarding the Apostolate and/or Apostolate Holy Card(s). The Apostolate Website includes a pdf of a greeting card that may be printed, signed by the group members (and quilter if able) and offered with the quilt to the priest.

The presentation may conclude by an assurance that Holy Hours of prayers will continue seamlessly for Father every day. Asking for Father's blessing would be a fitting and proper closure.

Photos: If all involved agree, as a memento, pictures may be taken at the time of the presentation that perhaps may be later used on the Apostolate Website!



Sharing the experience: The *Appreciated and Loved* quilt project is truly a labor of love – of both heart and hand! It serves all at once as **both a spiritual and corporal work of mercy**. It is valuable to share and encourage others to experience the deep dignity and joy of such work.

There is dedicated space on the Website for the fruit of this work. Ideally, a write-up about the priest would be included (*e.g.*, his vocation story, assignments and duties as a priest, perhaps a quote from him, favorite Scripture, a quote from the Anchoress of the group, etc.), along with a photo(s) of the priest, the quilt, the Anchoress/group members/quilter. Each entry will be unique. The goal will be **two-fold**: to honor the life of the priest/bishop and to honor the work of the *Appreciated and Loved* quilt project. The Anchoress can compose the write-up – or the Apostolate will designate another to do so. Team work at its best!

Rewards: Immediate JOY and Eternal benefits!



Seven Sisters Apostolate...

... that our prayers may find the heart of every bishop and priest.