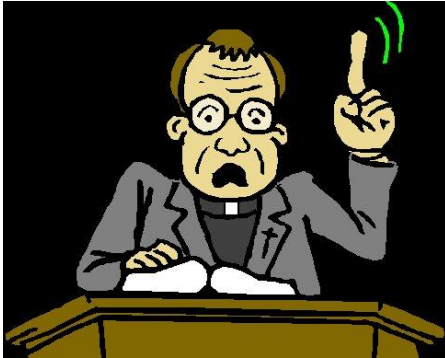


Pastor/Clergy Appreciation Day



Pastor Appreciation Day is a time to recognize the work of ministers, pastors, and priests in the United States. Started by Hallmark Cards in 1992, the officially-named Clergy Appreciation National Day of Honoring is usually called Clergy Appreciation Day or Pastor Appreciation Day. It falls on the second Sunday of October each year and is sometimes promoted as a month-long time to remember and honor the work of Christian clergy.

Often the main work of a minister or preacher is thought to be the time in the pulpit or in front of the congregation on Sunday, but many clergy, including missionaries and pastors, minister full-time by serving church members and the community throughout the year. Recognizing the commitments and sacrifices of those who lead churches and care for communities is behind Pastor Appreciation Day. Often the appreciation extends to spouses, family members, and ministers or acolytes who support the work of clergy leaders.

Senior pastors and priests conduct sermons and steer the course of the church as a whole. Youth pastors often work nights and weekends to help keep young people on track and spiritually-guided. Missionaries serve by relocating to another country or region where their knowledge of Christian fundamentals is paired with abilities to provide humanitarian assistance. Lay ministers, or those men and women without formal seminary education or ordination, also set apart their time and focus for the church. Pastor Appreciation Day honors all of these individuals and their services.