

Sacraments of Holy Orders and Marriage



Holy Orders



Marriage

Catholicism 101 (RCIA) 2011-12

Sacraments at the Service of Communion and Mission

- Holy Orders and Marriage give a special grace for a particular mission in the Church to serve and build up the People of God
 - Also called the sacraments of vocation
- They contribute in a special way to ecclesial communion and to the salvation of others



Holy Orders



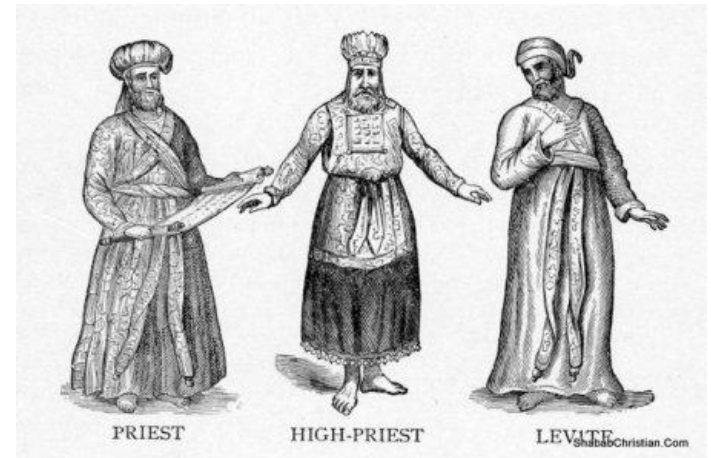
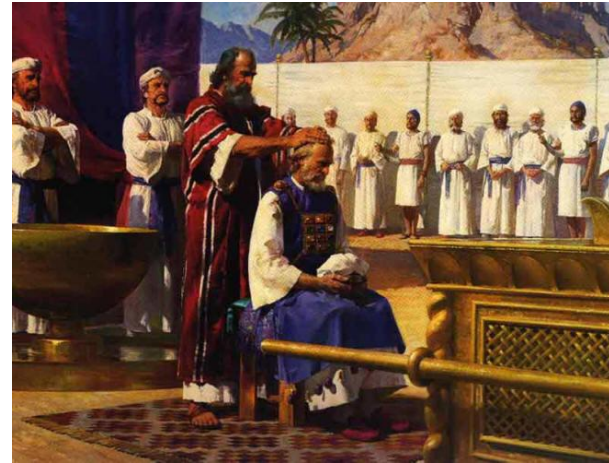
Marriage

Holy Orders

- “Orders” comes from the Latin word *ordo* which refers to a civil body, especially a governing body
 - One is brought into an *ordo* through *ordinatio*
- The word “Priest” in Greek and Latin
 - *presbyteros* – elder
 - *hiereus* – one who performs a religious function in a temple or sanctuary (hireon)
 - *Sacerdos* – one who is consecrated to God

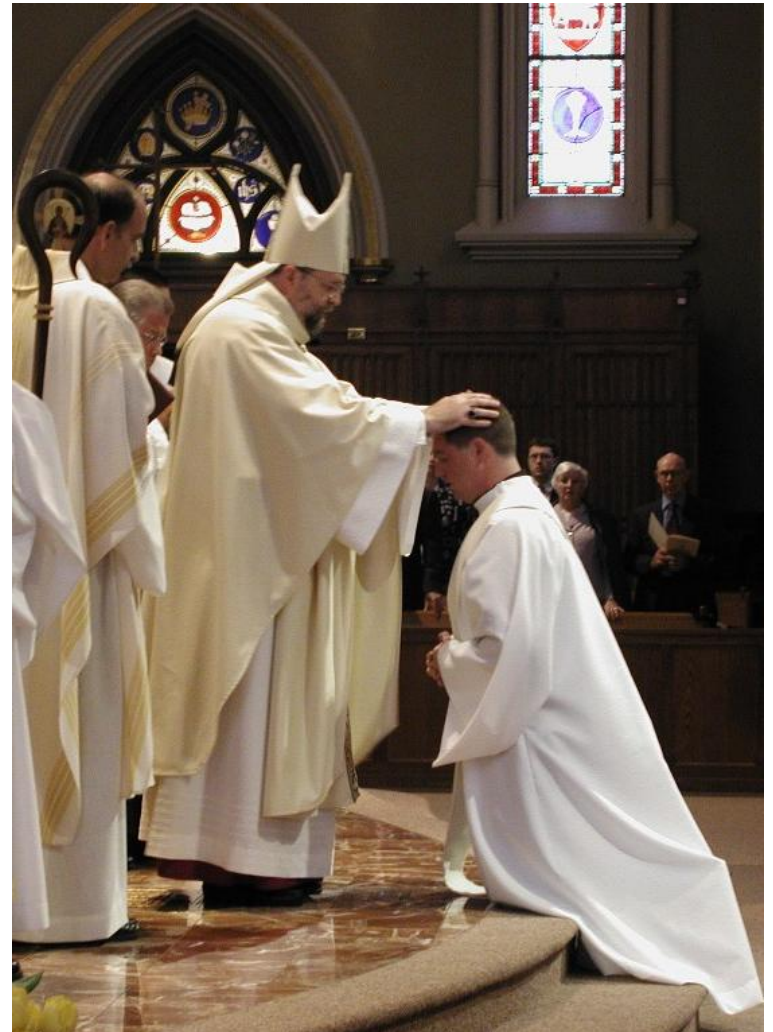
Old Testament Pre-figuration

- **Melchizedek** – priest of God most high who offered the sacrifice of bread and wine
- **Seventy elders** – God took of portion of spirit that rested on Moses and shared it with seventy others who then became his assistants
- **High Priest, Priests, Levites**— set apart by a special consecration to offer sacrifice, assist at liturgical service, and teach the Torah



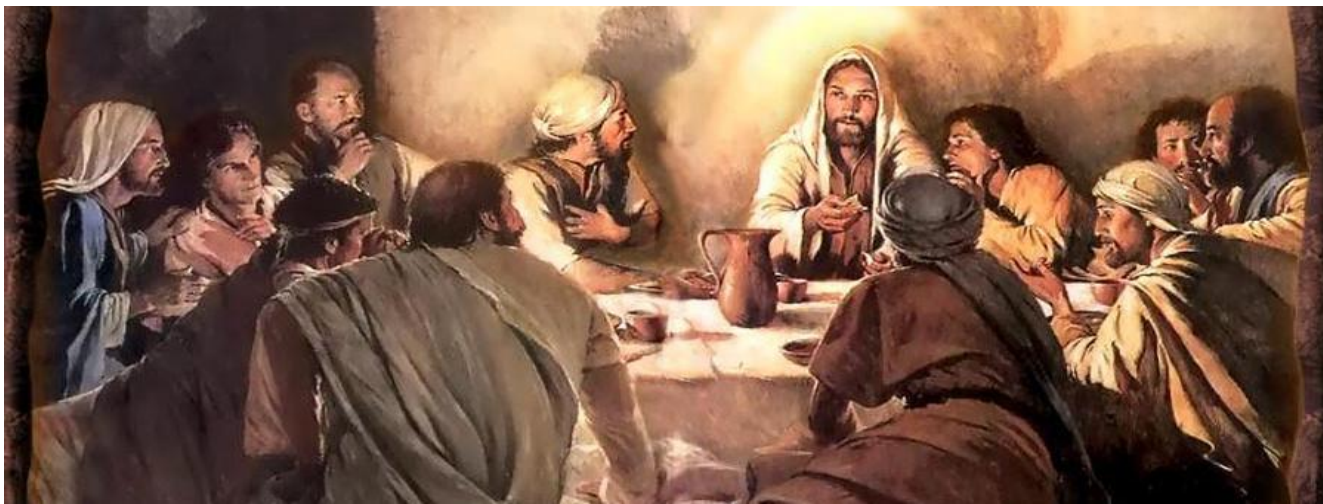
Holy Orders: Outward Sign

- **Form (Word)**– Solemn prayer of consecration
 - Asking God for the special outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit which are proper to the ordained ministry
- **Matter (Action)** – laying on of hands
- **Minister** – Bishop
- **Recipient** – Baptized man



Instituted by Christ

- The Holy Priesthood was instituted at the Last Supper
 - **Lk 22:19**: “...do this in remembrance of me”
 - **2 Tim 1:6-7** “Hence I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; for God did not give us a spirit of timidity but a spirit of power and love and self-control.”
 - **Jn. 20:21** Jesus called the twelve and gave them His own power and authority: “As the Father has sent me, even so I send you”



To Give Grace

- **Pastoral Charity**
 - Preaching and teaching
 - Continue Christ's shepherding and governance
 - Sacrifice, healing, and work of sanctification
- **Sacred Power**
 - Given sacramental power by Christ to consecrate bread and wine, forgive sins, anoint the sick, and in some cases confirm
- **Indelible Character**
 - Ordination confers a permanent *character* of the good shepherd
 - Enables a priest to act in the person of Christ the head and in the name of the Church



Priesthood of Christ

- “Only Christ is the true priest, the others being only his ministers” *St. Thomas Aquinas*
 - all others only participate in the one priesthood of Christ
- 2 forms of sharing in Christ’s priesthods:
 - *Universal* or common priesthood of the faithful
 - *Ministerial* priesthood of the ordained
 - The ministerial priesthood **serves** the universal priesthood. It differs in essence, not only degree, from the universal priesthood (cf. Vat II)

Recipients of Holy Orders

- Among the universal priesthood God calls some men to the ministerial priesthood to act in the person of Christ
 - The priesthood is not a right it is a calling
 - Priests are called to a life of sacrifice and service for the People of God
 - They act and speak not on their own authority nor from the delegation of the community but in the person of Christ
 - “The priesthood is the love of the heart of Christ” – St John Vianney
- The recipient of the sacrament of Holy Orders must be a single baptized male



Male Recipients

- Why can only males be ordained?
 - **Christ's will** – Jesus, without social constraint, freely chose to call 12 men to himself to continue his apostolic and priestly ministry
 - **Apostolic Tradition** - This was the practice throughout the Apostolic Tradition of the Church
 - **Icon** - A priest is an icon of Christ (male) who gives himself to his bride the church (female)



Celibacy

- **Celibacy** – the promise whereby one offers to God their human sexuality and the good of marriage for the sake of the Kingdom of God (Mt 19:11-12)
- In both the Eastern and Western Church a bishop has always taken on the promise of celibacy for the Kingdom
 - Latin Church: priests take on the promise of celibacy
 - Eastern Churches: priests can be married prior to their ordination
 - Permanent Diaconate: can be married prior to their ordination
- **Spiritual Purpose**
 - Spiritual sacrifice which advances the kingdom of heaven and enables on to pray with greater intensity
 - Witnesses to and begins now the way we will live in heaven, i.e. in union with God (Mk 12:18-27)
 - Witnesses to the truth that human sexuality is free gift of love not a constrained human impulse
 - It gives the priest the freedom to love and serve God and his people more generously (1 Cor 7:32-35)



Ranks of Holy Orders

- There are three degrees or ranks of holy orders in all
 - Bishop
 - Priest
 - Deacon

- Only the Bishop and Priest share in Christ ministerial priesthood
- The Deacon shares in Christ's ministry of service

- “Let everyone revere the deacons as Jesus Christ, the bishop as the image of the Father, and the presbyters as the senate of God and the assembly of the apostles. For without them one cannot speak of the Church” *Ignatius of Antioch (d. 110)*



Deacon

- **Deaconate** – is the name for the order of deacons
 - Christ “came not to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for the many” (Mark 10:45)
 - Deacons share in Christ’s service
 - Deacons are coworkers with the bishop and priests
- **Permanent Deacons** – a deacon who will not become a priest
- **Transitional Deacons** – a deacon who will be ordained a priest
- **Duties of a Deacon** – Promises of obedience, celibacy (for transitional deacons), and the Liturgy of the Hours, baptize, witness marriages, preach, prepare the altar for Mass, distribute Holy Communion, give viaticum to the dying, and lead the rites of Christian burial



Priest

- **Presbyterate** – name of the order of priests
 - They do not have the fullness of holy orders
 - cannot ordain priests and must have permission to Confirm
- Priests are co-workers with the bishop and work under his authority
- Their main task is to teach, sanctify, and govern the parish community
- **Duties of a Priest** – Promises of obedience, Celibacy, and the Liturgy of Hours, offer the Sacrifice of the Mass, absolve sins, confirm (in certain circumstances), and anoint the sick
 - Can also do all the above mentioned duties of a deacon



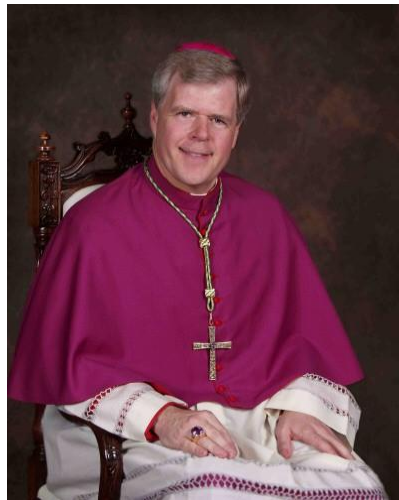
Bishop

- **Episcopate** – name for the order of Bishops which is also called the Episcopal college
 - Bishops have the fullness of holy orders
- They are the successors of the Apostles
- Their main work is to teach, sanctify, and govern their diocese
- Visible head and foundation of unity for a particular Church (diocese)
- **Duties of a Bishop** - ordinary minister of confirmation, power to ordain deacons, priests, and other bishops, chief administrator of all the institutions and activities in his diocese
 - Also has all the above mentioned promises and duties of a deacon and priest



Other Ecclesial Titles

- **Cardinal** – a bishop with a title of honor who is also responsible for electing the next pope
- **Archbishop** – a bishop of a metropolitan see (archdiocese) who is also the head of a province
- **Auxiliary Bishop** – a bishop who assists the diocesan bishop in larger dioceses
- **Monsignor** – a priest with a title of honor



Ex Opere Operato

- **Ex opere operato** – by the work worked or by the very action of the worker
 - The effectiveness of the sacraments does not depend on the holiness of the minister
- As for the proud minister, he is to be ranked with the devil. Christ's gift is not thereby profaned: what flows through him keeps its purity, and what passes through him remains dear and reaches the fertile earth. . . . The spiritual power of the sacrament is indeed comparable to light: those to be enlightened receive it in its purity, and if it should pass through defiled beings, it is not itself defiled (St. Augustine)

