

SACRAMENTS OF SERVICE

MATRIMONY

❖ GOD'S CREATION

- Man was made in image of God and meant to share in God's creativity.
- Men are not machines or means of production.
- We should strive to find God in our work and in the work of others.
- The family reflects God's creativity and goodness.
- Children are a gift from God, not a means to an end or an expensive luxury to be planned.
- The care and teaching of children are primarily entrusted to the parents.

❖ RITE OF MATRIMONY

- Liturgy of the Word
- Rite of Matrimony
 - Scrutiny
 - Have you come here to enter into Marriage without coercion, freely and wholeheartedly?
 - Are you prepared, as you follow the path of Marriage, to love and honor each other for as long as you both shall live?
 - Are you prepared to accept children lovingly from God and to bring them up according to the law of Christ and his Church?
 - Consent
 - Blessing of the Rings
- Liturgy of the Eucharist
 - Nuptial Blessing
 - Offering flowers to the Virgin Mary



❖ MEANING OF MARRIAGE

- The Sacrament of Marriage mirrors God's covenant love of his people
- God calls us to love and serve our neighbor.
- Marriage binds the husband and wife to an open-ended commitment to love.
- The vows exchanged are the outward sign of this sacrament.
- The groom represents Christ, who gave up Himself to give life to the Church.
- The bride represents the Church, who receives new life from Christ.
- Marriage is only repeatable with the death of one spouse or a Church annulment.
- Roman Catholics must marry within the Church or have permission to do so elsewhere.
- Catholics married outside of the Church must have vows blessed before receiving Communion or any other sacrament.



❖ THE DOMESTIC CHURCH

- The union of husband and wife is like that of Christ and the Church.
- Marriage gives the couple the strength to attain holiness.
- The family is a union and communion of people committed to loving and helping each other.
- Christ was raised by Mary and Joseph in the Holy Family.

HOLY ORDERS

❖ COMMON PRIESTHOOD

- Catholics are consecrated during Baptism and Confirmation to the common priesthood.
- “He now anoints you with the chrism of salvation, so that, united with his people, you may remain forever a member of Christ who is Priest, Prophet, and King.” (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults, Celebration of Baptism, Anointing after Baptism).
- In the common priesthood we are co-responsible for the mission of the Church, which includes blessing, teaching, and celebrating the liturgy as active participant and ministers.

❖ MINISTERIAL PRIESTHOOD

- A few men are called to the ministerial priesthood (Deacons, Priests, and Bishops) and they are ordained in the Sacrament of Holy Orders.
- When a man is called to the ministerial priesthood, the call is heard by the person, by the responsible superiors, and by the others in the Church. The calling is not simply between the person and God.
- Priests and Bishops are co-responsible for governance, as well as the mission, of the Church.
- Priest and Bishops act in “persona Christi”.
 - When administering the sacraments, a priest does not do so himself, but he does so in the person of Christ. It is Jesus who administers the sacraments, not the priest on his own accord.
 - A priest participates in the mediation of Christ and is a bridge between the human and the divine.
- Luke 22:19: “Jesus took bread, gave thanks, and broke it, and gave it to them, Prayer saying, ‘This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.’”
- John 20:21-23: “Again Jesus said, ‘Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.’ And with that he breathed on them and said, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.’”

❖ THE RITE OF HOLY ORDERS

- Liturgy of the Word
- Promises of the elect
- Litany of Saints
- Laying on of hands

- Prayer of Consecration
- Anointing of the hands
- Handing over the bread and wine
- Liturgy of the Eucharist

❖ MEANING OF HOLY ORDERS

- Holy Orders is an ancient rite that began with the apostles.
- Through Holy Orders the priesthood of Jesus Christ is transmitted and the power to administer the sacraments is passed.
- In Holy Orders a man gives up his life to become a deacon, priest, or bishop.
- The elect promise to give themselves up completely to the service of the Church and the people of God.
- The bishop lays his hands on the elect to transfer the power of the priesthood to them, a power that has been passed down from the apostles.
- During the Rite of Holy Orders, ordination is affected by the laying on of hands by one or more bishops. Since these bishops were ordained by previous bishops, the chain of laying on of hands and ordination goes back to the Christ and the apostles.
- The anointing of the hands with the Sacred Chrism puts an “indelible mark” on the soul of the new priest. He is now a priest forever and administrator of the sacraments of the Church.

❖ DEGREES OF HOLY ORDERS

- Bishops, priests, and deacons are the three degrees of Holy Orders
- In the Latin (western) Rite of the Catholic Church, bishops and priests do not marry but deacons may marry before ordination.
- In the Greek (eastern) Rite of the Catholic Church, Orthodox Churches and some others, deacon and priests may marry but bishops may not marry.

❖ BISHOPS

- The bishop leads the church in a territory called a diocese by providing sacraments, teaching the faith, and administering the Church.
- The bishop should be united with all other bishops through the successor of St. Peter, the pope.





❖ PRIESTS

- Ordained priests represent Christ before the assembly during the sacraments and act in the name of the whole church when presenting prayers to God.
- A priest is an assistant to the bishop of his diocese.
- The local bishop assigns priest to areas of the diocese called parishes, or to other ministries.

❖ DEACONS

- Deacons are ordained to assist the priests during the sacraments, to do works of charity, and to preach.
- As with priests, the local bishop assigns the deacons to parishes or to other ministries.

❖ THE RELIGIOUS VOCATION

- Jesus chose 12 men to be apostles and began the Church.
- The succession of ordination afterwards proceeded to be men only.
- St. Pope John Paul II declared in 1994 that according to Sacred Tradition and teaching since apostolic times, women could not become priests. However, he affirmed the great importance of the role of women in the life and ministry of the Church.
- Many women and men carry out their religious vocations without ordination as sisters, brothers, and as laity. All baptized are co-responsible for the mission of the Church.

NEXT WEEK: Lent and Life in Christ, Chapters 23 and 24