


Holy Orders: A Promise of Service for the People of God

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WE GATHER

 **Leader:** Christ, you call us to follow you every day of our lives. Give us the courage to trust in you as your first disciples did.

Reader 1: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

“As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew, casting a net into the sea; they were fishermen. He said to them, ‘Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.’ At once they left their nets and followed him.”

(Matthew 4:18–20)

Reader 2: “As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the customs post. He said to him, ‘Follow me.’ And he got up and followed him.” (Matthew 9:9)

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



Come, Follow Me

Refrain:

Come, follow me, come, follow me.
I am the way, the truth, and the life.
Come, follow me, come, follow me.
I am the light of the world, follow me.

You call us to serve with a generous heart;
in building your kingdom each one has a part.

Each person is special in your kingdom of love.

Yes, we will follow you, Jesus!

(Refrain)



Who are some people who help you to grow in faith? How do they help you to believe in and follow Christ?

WE BELIEVE

Jesus shares his ministry in a special way with the Apostles.

From the beginning of his ministry, Jesus Christ invited all types of people to be his disciples. After a night of prayer, Jesus “called his disciples to himself, and from them he chose Twelve, whom he also named apostles.” (Luke 6:13) Jesus chose the Apostles to share in his ministry in a special way.

Jesus sent the Apostles out to share his message. He sent them to preach and to cure people in his name. He told them, “Whoever receives the one I send receives me” (John 13:20).

Once the Apostles argued among themselves about who was the greatest. Jesus told them that whoever wanted to be great must be a servant to the others. He told them, “I am among you as the one who serves” (Luke 22:27). Jesus wanted his Apostles to follow his example and to lead others by serving them.



In groups talk about the ways family members serve one another and the ways members of a neighborhood serve their community. Then write down some ways that you serve your family and your classmates.



Christ Appearing to His Disciples at the Mount of Galilee
Duccio di Buoninsegna (1278–1319)

Before he returned to his Father, Jesus promised his Apostles that they would receive the Gift of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit would help them to remember all that Jesus had said and done.

After his Death and Resurrection, the risen Jesus gave the Apostles the authority to continue his work. He commissioned them, or sent them out, saying, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’ And when he said this, he breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the holy Spirit’” (John 20:21–22).

With these words Jesus trusted the Apostles with his own work, and they received their mission. Jesus sent them out to all parts of the world to lead his community and to bring people to share in his Kingdom. They were to teach and to baptize people. The Holy Spirit strengthened the Apostles to carry out their mission.

Holy Orders is the sacrament through which the Church continues the Apostles' mission.

Everywhere they went the Apostles gathered believers into local Church communities. With the help of each local Church, they chose leaders and ministers for the community. The Apostles laid hands on those chosen and commissioned them.

Some of these leaders acted on behalf of the Apostles by preaching the Good News of Jesus Christ and sharing the teachings of the Apostles. They continued the Apostles' ministry and were the successors of the Apostles. They eventually became known as bishops.

The local leaders who worked with the bishops became known as priests. And those who assisted in the worship and service of the community were called deacons.

As the Church continued to grow, the bishops, the successors of the Apostles, commissioned others to continue the ministry of the Apostles. In this way, the leadership of the Church throughout history can be traced back to the Apostles.

Holy Orders is the sacrament in which baptized men are ordained to serve the Church as deacons, priests, and bishops. It is a Sacrament at the Service of Communion. While there are many ministries in the Church, deacons, priests, and bishops are the only ordained ministers. Those who receive Holy Orders take on a special mission in leading and serving the people of God.

In the Sacrament of Holy Orders:

- Men are ordained by the bishop's laying on of hands and prayer of consecration.

- Those ordained receive the grace necessary to carry out their ministry to the faithful.
- Men are imprinted with an indelible sacramental character, a permanent spiritual seal on their souls.
- The Church, through its ordained ministers, continues the mission that Jesus Christ first gave to his Apostles.

Some baptized men, single or married, are ordained permanent deacons. They share in Christ's mission and remain deacons for life. They may work to support themselves and their families. Other baptized men are ordained deacons as a step in their preparation for the priesthood. These men remain unmarried and continue their study to become ordained priests.



With a partner discuss ways that the members of your parish work with the priests and deacons who serve you.

As Catholics...

The pope is the Bishop of Rome because he is the successor of the Apostle Peter, who was the first leader of the Church of Rome. As the Bishop of Rome, the pope has a special responsibility to care for and lead the Church. The bishops are called to work with the pope to lead and guide the whole Church. The bishops, with the pope as their head, are called to watch over all those under their care, especially those who are in need in any way.



Holy Orders (p. 268)

Bishops, priests, and deacons serve the Church in different ways.

The **bishops** are the successors of the Apostles. They are called to continue the Apostles' mission of leadership and service in the Church. The bishops are the chief teachers, leaders, and priests of the Church.

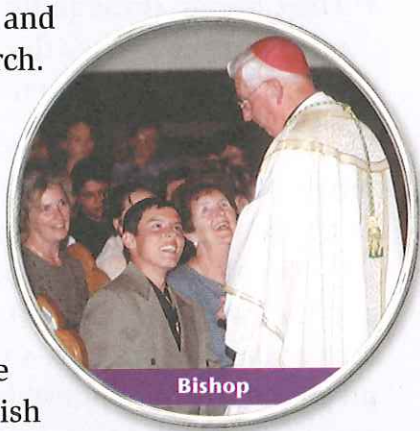
A bishop usually leads and cares for a diocese.

A diocese is a local community of Christian faithful. A diocese is made up of parish communities, schools and colleges, and even hospitals.

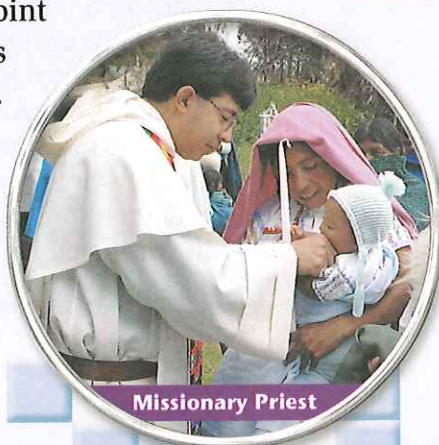
While bishops are fully and completely responsible for the care of the whole Church, they do not do this alone. The bishop of a diocese appoints priests to represent him and carry out his ministry in the parishes. The bishop also appoints deacons, religious and lay women and men to work with the priests in caring for the people of his diocese.

Priests are ordained by their bishops and are called to serve the Christian faithful by leading, teaching, and most especially celebrating the Eucharist and other sacraments. Priests are co-workers with their bishops.

Bishops usually appoint one priest to serve as the pastor of a parish. The pastor is responsible to see that the life of the parish grows



Bishop



Missionary Priest

stronger. He is especially responsible for the celebration of the liturgy, prayer, education, and care for those in need. The pastor does not work alone. There may be other priests and many women and men of the parish who work with him.


Deacons are baptized men who are not priests but are ordained by their bishops to the work of service for the Church. They have an important role in worship, leadership, and social ministries.

Deacons are called to serve the community in worship. They may preach the Word of God and baptize new members of the Church. They may witness marriages and preside at Christian burials. At Mass they proclaim the Gospel, preach, prepare the altar, distribute Holy Communion, and send the gathered community out to serve others.

Deacons help the parish to reach out to people in the community. They have a special responsibility to care for those who are suffering or who are in need.



Deacon

 There are many people who minister to and lead the members of your parish community. As a class name some of them and explain their ministries.

Key Words

bishops (p. 267)

priests (p. 269)

deacons (p. 267)

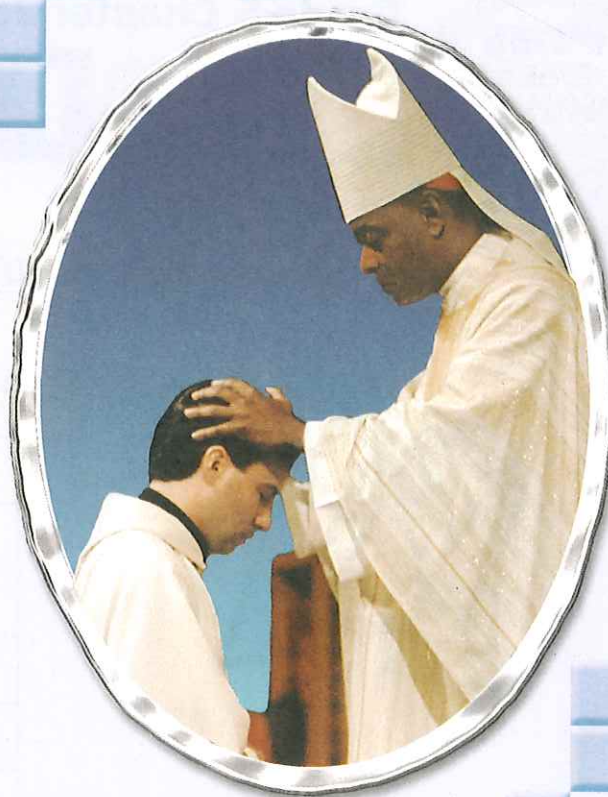
The laying on of hands and prayer of consecration are the main parts of the Sacrament of Holy Orders.

The Sacrament of Holy Orders is a wonderful celebration for the Church. The whole community in the diocese gathers for the celebration. A bishop is always the celebrant of this sacrament. Only a bishop can ordain another bishop, a priest, or a deacon.

The celebration of Holy Orders always takes place during the celebration of the Mass. The ordination of deacons, priests, and bishops is similar. The Liturgy of the Word includes readings about ministry and service. After the Gospel reading, those to be ordained are presented to the bishop celebrant.

The celebrant speaks about the roles these men will have in the Church. He reflects on the ways they are called to lead and serve in Jesus' name. He talks about their responsibilities to teach, to lead, and to worship.

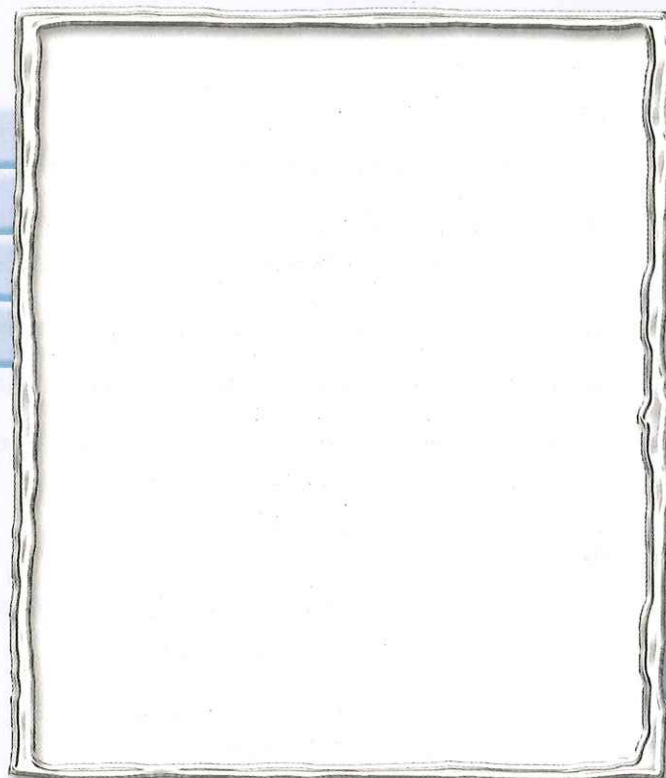
The laying on of hands and the prayer of consecration are the main parts of the Sacrament of Holy Orders. It is through these two actions that the candidates or the bishop-elect are ordained. During the laying on of hands, the bishop celebrant prays in silence. The bishop celebrant then prays the prayer of consecration. Through this prayer these men are consecrated or dedicated for a particular service in the Church. The bishop celebrant extends his hands, and by the power of the Holy Spirit consecrates the candidates or the bishop-elect to continue Jesus' ministry. The newly ordained are forever marked by Holy Orders.



WE RESPOND



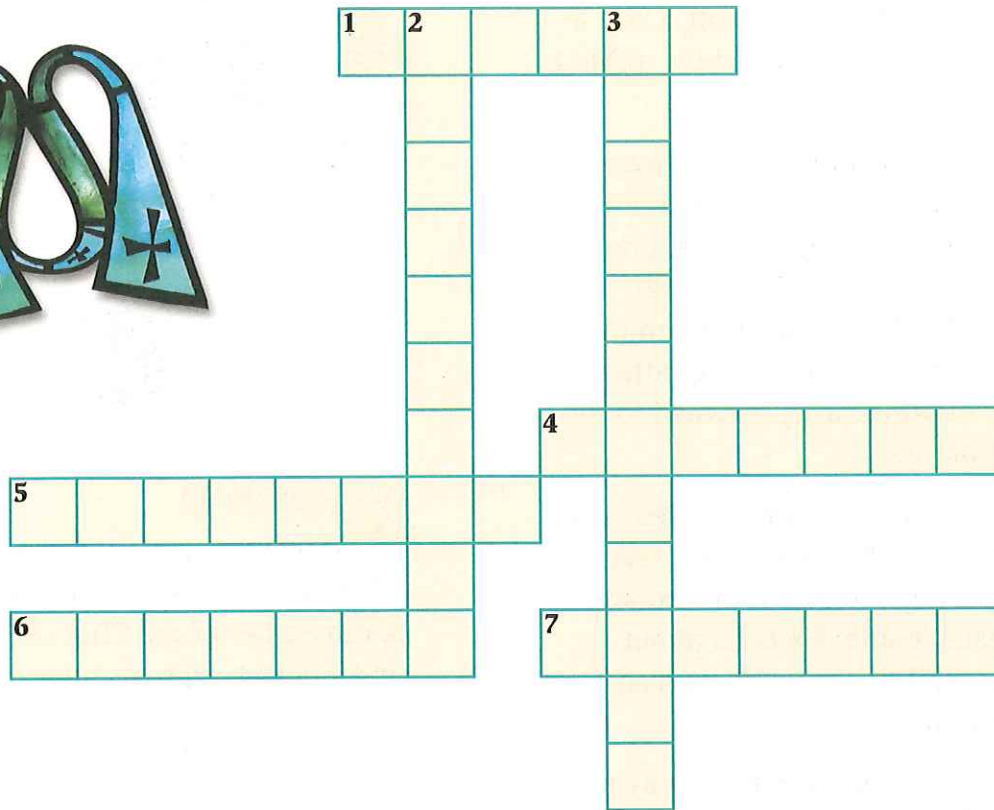
Design a sign of service to show others that you are a follower of Christ and member of the Church. It might be an object, logo, or image.





PROJECT

Show What *you* Know



Across

1. Bishops, priests, and deacons serve the _____ in different ways.
4. ordained ministers who serve the Christian faithful by leading, teaching, and most especially celebrating the Eucharist and other sacraments
5. Jesus shared his ministry in a special way with the _____.
6. baptized men who are not priests but are ordained to the work of service for the Church
7. the successors of the Apostles who are ordained to continue the Apostles' mission of leadership

Down

2. the sacrament in which baptized men are ordained to serve the Church as deacons, priests, and bishops (two words)
3. The laying on of hands and prayer of _____ are the main parts of the Sacrament of Holy Orders.



Fast Facts

The title of *Monsignor* is given to certain priests who have been honored by the pope for faithful and esteemed service to the Church. The bishop of a diocese usually nominates candidates for this honor and submits them to the Vatican for approval.

Saint Stories

Andrew Kim Taegon was baptized a Catholic in Korea when he was fifteen years old. He later traveled over a thousand miles to China to study for the priesthood. He became Korea's first native priest. He was famous for the faith and witness he gave to Christ. At that time, the Church in Korea was persecuted. Father Andrew helped many Christians escape to China. He also tried to bring some French missionaries to Korea. Because he tried to continue the work of Christ and the Church, he was captured and put to death. He was the first of 103 Korean Catholics to be martyred for their faith. He was only twenty-five years old when he was killed. His feast day is September 20.



DISCIPLE CHALLENGE

- Underline the phrase that describes why Father Andrew was put to death.
- What hardships did Father Andrew go through for his vocation?

Visit *Lives of the Saints* on www.webelieveweb.com to learn more about saints and holy people.

Take Home

Jesus called his Apostles to work together. As family members we may have certain daily work we are expected to do. With your family, take time to make a list of family tasks that need to be done on a daily/weekly basis.

CHAPTER TEST

Choose a word(s) from the box to complete each sentence.

1. _____ is the sacrament in which baptized men are ordained to serve as deacons, priests, and bishops.
2. _____ are ordained ministers who serve the Christian faithful by leading, teaching, and most especially celebrating the Eucharist and other sacraments.
3. _____ are baptized men who are not priests but are ordained to the work of service for the Church.
4. _____ are the successors of the Apostles who are ordained to continue the Apostles' mission of leadership and service in the Church.

Deacons

Bishops

Holy Orders

Priests

Eucharist

Short answers

5. How did the Holy Spirit help the Apostles carry out Jesus' mission?

6. Who is the celebrant of Holy Orders?

7. What was the Apostles' mission?

8. What are the two main parts of the Sacrament of Holy Orders?

Write a sentence to answer each question.

9. What is the importance of the Sacrament of Holy Orders?

10. What are two ways deacons serve the community in worship?
