

Hear & Believe

Worship Holy Orders

In the Sacrament of **Holy Orders**, men are ordained to serve the Church as bishops, priests, and deacons. Only men who have been baptized and who are considered by the Church to have a vocation to Holy Orders may receive this sacrament.

Bishops receive the fullness of the Sacrament of Holy Orders. They are the successors of the Apostles and the chief teachers of the Church. Under the authority of the pope, a bishop usually leads a diocese. A **diocese** is made up of Catholic parishes and schools and may include Catholic universities and hospitals.

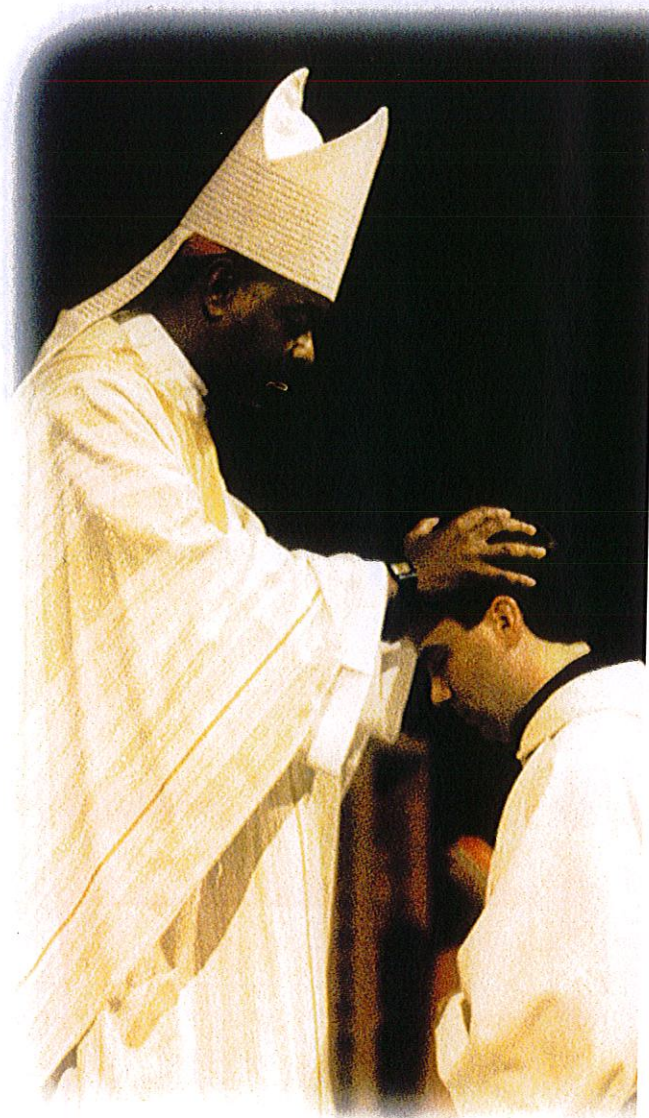
Priests are ordained by their bishops to celebrate the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, and to proclaim the Word of God. Priests are the coworkers of the bishops.

There are two kinds of priests. Diocesan priests are ordained to serve in a diocese, usually as the pastor of a parish. Religious priests belong to a religious order, such as the Benedictines, Franciscans, Dominicans, or Jesuits.

Deacons are ordained by their bishops to help priests with the work of the parish. Deacons can celebrate the sacraments of Baptism and Matrimony. They can also read the Gospel and give the homily at Sunday Mass.

There are two kinds of deacons. Transitional deacons are men who are preparing for the priesthood. Permanent deacons do not become priests, and they may be single or married.

The Sacrament of Holy Orders is celebrated during a Mass. The bishop places his hands on the head of each man being ordained. He prays a special prayer to God that each man be filled with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Holy Orders places a special spiritual mark on the soul of each man who is ordained.



The following prayer is prayed by the bishop at the ordination of priests and deacons.

*May they live the commandments and lead others to a holy life.
May they remain strong.*

May they imitate Jesus, who came to serve others.

And may they one day join him in heaven.

Based on a Prayer from the Ordination of Deacons and Priests

Matrimony

The Sacrament of **Matrimony**, or Marriage, celebrates the commitment between a man and a woman to love each other for the rest of their lives. Through Marriage, couples receive the grace to love each other as Jesus loves the Church.

The Sacrament of Marriage usually takes place during a Mass. The ministers of the sacrament are the couple being married. The priest is the official witness. In this sacrament, a man and a woman make vows, or promises, such as the following.

*I, (name), take you, (name), to be my (husband or wife).
I promise to be true to you in good times and in bad, in sickness
and in health. I will love you and honor you all the days of my life.*

Rite of Marriage

Married couples are called by God to love and serve each other. This includes receiving with love any children that God may give the couple. The Church teaches us that children are the "supreme gift" of marriage.

Our Church Teaches

Holy Orders and Matrimony are called **Sacraments at the Service of Communion**. These sacraments help the people who receive them in their salvation by providing them with a way to serve others.

We Believe

We believe that vocations are ways to serve God and the Church.

Faith Words

Holy Orders

Holy Orders is the Sacrament at the Service of Communion in which bishops, priests, and deacons are ordained to serve the Church in a special way.

Matrimony

Matrimony, or Marriage, is the Sacrament at the Service of Communion in which a woman and a man promise to love and be faithful to each other for the rest of their lives.

Do you know which saint was known for his great sense of humor?



Respond

Saint Philip Neri Serves God



The two favorite books of Saint Philip Neri were the New Testament and a book of jokes and riddles. Those books sum up Philip's vocation. He lived in Rome in the sixteenth century, and believed that God was calling him to use his serious love of God and his quirky sense of humor to bring people back to God. Philip went to marketplaces and asked people when they planned to do some good in the world.

Soon people met with him for prayer, discussions, and music. They found Philip to be a holy man and one who could make them laugh. He wanted no sadness in his house. As the number of followers grew, a large building, the Oratory, was built to hold his meetings.

At age 35, Philip became a priest. Though people enjoyed his joking personality, many spoke of his holiness, saying he was a living saint. But Philip did not want to be taken too seriously. When he heard talk of sainthood, he shaved off half of his beard! Who could look at that sight and think of a saint?

By the time he died at age 80, he had accomplished his vocation. The people of Rome had been changed by the work and spirit of Philip Neri.





Prayer Celebration

A Vocations Prayer

Quiet yourself, close your eyes, and think about a vocation to which God may be calling you. Then silently pray the prayer below.

Lord, show me how to be of service,
in your Church and in the world.
Help me to see what you want me to do.
Give me vision, courage, and friends who
encourage me to do your work.

Complete the sentences with the words from the box.

Matrimony
Holy Orders
diocese

children
transitional
deacons

Philip
service
Jerome

soul
permanent
priests

1. In the Sacrament of _____, men are ordained to serve the Church as bishops, priests, and deacons.
2. The Church teaches us that _____ are the supreme gift of Marriage.
3. Saint _____ was known for his great love for God and his great sense of humor.
4. Holy Orders and Matrimony are called Sacraments at the _____ of Communion.
5. Holy Orders places a special spiritual mark on the _____ of each man who is ordained.
6. _____ are the coworkers of the bishops and may serve in a diocese or belong to a religious order.
7. A _____ deacon is a man who is preparing for the priesthood.
8. In the Sacrament of _____, a man and a woman promise to love each and be faithful to each other for the rest of their lives.
9. A _____ deacon does not become a priest and may be single or married.
10. A _____ is made up of Catholic parishes and schools and may include Catholic universities and hospitals.