

Keysis Outline

4/2/08

HOLY ORDERS

- As baptized members of the Church, we are all called to share in the “common priesthood of the Church”
- Some members are called to share in the priestly work of Christ in a unique way.
- The ministerial priesthood continues the work of Christ handed on to his Apostles
- It is ordered to serve the common priesthood of the faithful
- Possesses a sacred power, which reaches its highest expression in the celebration of the Eucharist.

The 3 Degrees of ordained ministry

- Bishops **1 Tim 3:1**
 - In the line of the apostles
 - Receives the fullness of the sacrament of Holy Orders
 - The head of a particular church
 - Share in the responsibility and mission of the whole Church under the authority of the Pope
- Priests (presbyters)
 - United with the bishops and depend on them in exercise their pastoral duties
 - Called to be the bishops co-workers
 - Receive from the bishop a parish or office
- Deacons
 - Ministers ordained for the task of service to the Church
 - ordination confers on them ministry of the word, divine worship, pastoral governance, and the service of charity

Ordination

- The bishops lay on hands and a prayer of consecration is prayed
- **2 Tim 1:6**
- For a bishop to be ordained, many bishops come together and lay on hands, showing the brotherhood of bishops
- Deacons-only the bishop lays on hands, showing the deacon’s special attachment to the Bishop

The Graces of the Sacrament

- Leaves an indelible character—cannot be repeated, isn’t temporary
- The unworthiness of the priest doesn’t matter

“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 clear 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.” CCC 1550 St. Augustine.

- The Holy Spirit helps the priest imitate Christ as Priest, Teacher, and Pastor

Celibacy for the Kingdom

- We are all called to be a spouse or parent, that is a natural feeling. As religious we are spouse to Christ/Church and mother/Fr. to many spiritual children.
- Certain people feel called to commit themselves completely to Christ
- They reveal on earth what we will all live some day in heaven, they choose to be the bride and/or bridegroom now—UNION WITH GOD
- **Rev 21:2; Mt 22:30**
- Priests, nuns, sisters, brothers, and consecrated laity take a vow of chastity.
- **Mt. 19:12**
- Isn't not having sex abnormal? No, not in the sense that it is weird or wrong, but yes in the sense that it is “not the norm”. It is an extraordinary call from God
- Celibacy is thought of as something someone “is not doing”. Flip that and see what someone is doing with their sexuality—revealing the eternal

Priestly Celibacy

- Have had a celibate priesthood for over 1000 years
- The Eastern Rite has some married priests, but bishops are chosen from the unmarried
- It is difficult to divide yourself between an earthly bride and the Church
- God calls his priests from among those who feel called to celibacy
- These men give themselves completely to their bride, the Church, just as Jesus did

A male-only Priesthood

- A woman cannot be a priest for the same reason a man can't give birth—they don't have the right equipment to be a Father. It is a spiritual Fatherhood
- A priest becomes the person of Christ “This is my body”
- Jesus chose his 12 apostles from among men
- It is not a power trip
- The Church does not have the authority to change this rule, because it is God's church, not ours.