

Holy Orders

“You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek.” Ps. 110:4

Consider the following statement: Holy Orders conforms the man to Christ the high priest and enables him to serve the Church in the person of Christ the Head.

Keeping the above statement in mind, read and meditate on the following passages:

Scripture:

Ps 110:4	The priesthood of Melchizedek
Mt 16:18-19	Apostles are given the authority of Christ
Jn 20:23	Power to forgive sins
Acts 1:20	Ministerial succession
Rom 10:14-15	Necessity of preaching to good news
I Tim 4:14	The vocation to the ministerial priesthood a gift
Heb 5:1-2	The priest represents before God the people from whom he came
I Tim 3:1	<u>Degree of Holy Orders – Episcopate</u>
Titus 1:5	<u>Degree of Holy Orders – Presbyterate</u>
Acts 6:1-7	<u>Degree of Holy Orders - Diaconate</u>

Catechism:

CCC 1537-1538	Why is This Sacrament called “Orders”
CCC 1539-1553	The Sacrament of Holy Orders in the Economy of Salvation
CCC 1554-1571	The Three Degrees of the Sacrament of Holy Orders
CCC 1572-1574	The Celebration of this Sacrament
CCC 1575-1576	Who Can Confer This Sacrament?
CCC 1577-1580	Who Can Receive this Sacrament?
CCC 1581-1589	The Effects of the Sacrament of Holy Orders

Key Words:

Sacrament:

A sacred sign, instituted by Christ, by which a person receives God’s Divine Life within their soul. (See CCC, p.898)

Holy Orders:

The Sacrament of Apostolic Ministry by which the mission entrusted by Christ to his Apostles continues to be exercised in the Church through the laying on of hands. This sacrament has three distinct degrees or “orders”: deacon, priest, and bishop. All three confer a permanent, sacramental character.