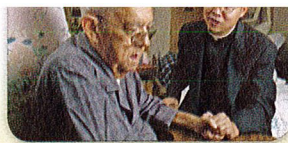


Looking Ahead

In this chapter, the Holy Spirit invites you to ►



EXPLORE how a priest sought out the truth of the Church.



DISCOVER the three degrees of Holy Orders.



DECIDE on how you can live in Christ by serving others.

CHAPTER

15



The Sacrament of Holy Orders

? In what ways do you serve others?

Jesus was not alone when he went out to proclaim the Gospel, nor did he minister to those in need by himself. Read about how Jesus ministered to the people:

Jesus went around to all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and curing every disease and illness. At the sight of the crowds, his heart was moved with pity for them because they were troubled and abandoned, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest.”

MATTHEW 9:35–38

? If you think of God as the “master of the harvest,” who might his laborers be?



Disciple Power

Patience

One of the Fruits of the Holy Spirit is patience, which is the result of virtuous living. Being patient does not mean doing nothing. Patience involves the wisdom of knowing how to wait for truth while actively seeking grace.

THE CHURCH FOLLOWS JESUS

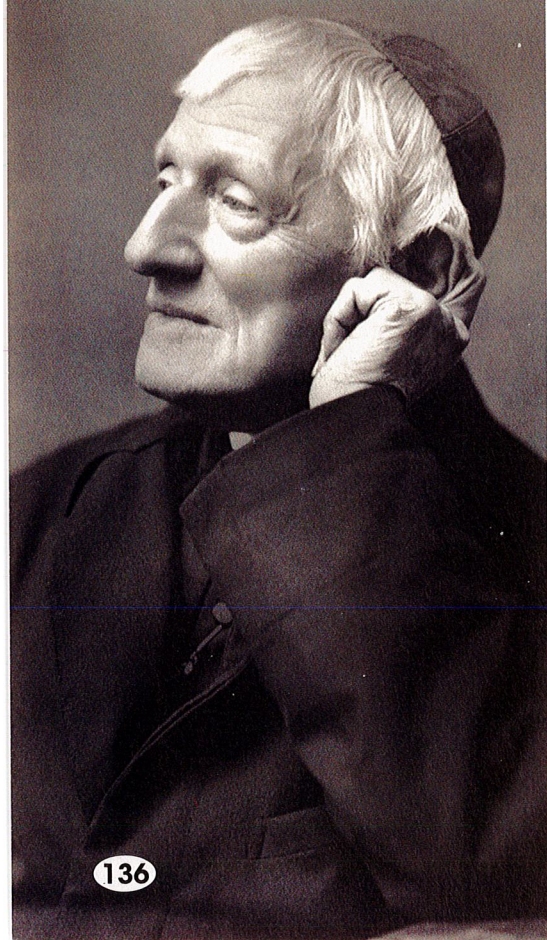
Seeking to Serve

Every Catholic priest, as he ministers to people in need, travels on his own journey of faith. In the 1800s, John Henry Newman started one such faith journey. He began his journey as an evangelical Christian, then became an Anglican priest, and finally a Catholic cardinal. Throughout his life, Newman actively sought out the truth of God and the Church with humility and patience.

While still in his early twenties, Newman became a leader of the Oxford Movement. This was a movement of some Anglican scholars, at the University of Oxford, who sought to settle the differences between the Anglican Church and the Roman Catholic Church. Newman became an Anglican priest, an accomplished writer, and respected scholar.

In 1845, Newman's journey of faith continued when he was accepted into full communion with the Catholic Church. He was ordained a Roman Catholic priest a year later. He would go on to help Catholics in Ireland and England and continue to write about theological matters. Father Newman was instrumental in helping to expand the Catholic Church in England during a time when Catholics there faced prejudice and persecution. For this reason, the Church bestowed on him the honor of cardinal. A year before his death, Cardinal Newman celebrated his last Mass on Christmas Day, 1889.

Cardinal Newman patiently served the Church throughout his faith journey in various roles. In his heart, John Henry Cardinal Newman preferred the life of a parish pastor. In Birmingham, England, where he was a parish priest for more than 30 years, Pope Benedict XVI beatified John Henry Newman on September 19, 2010.



Activity

Which qualities do you think are necessary to be a priest? Discuss your ideas with a partner and make your list here.

Consecrated in Christ's Name

True success comes from happiness—the happiness of a servant's heart. Jesus has set the standard for success, and it is quite different from the standards sometimes seen in the world. Jesus taught,

[W]hoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all. For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.

MARK 10:44-45

To serve God and others means that we must serve as Christ did. Success built on material goods, self-centeredness, and self-interests is not in God's plan. We must build a community and be ready to make sacrifices. Christian service means that we serve others by giving ourselves as Jesus did. In doing so, we share in the unity of Christ.

The Priesthood of Christ

Jesus Christ is the one true priest. The baptized can share in the priesthood of Christ in two ways. There is the priesthood of all the faithful and of the ordained priesthood. Every Christian is joined to Christ in Baptism and is called to live a life of generous service to God and others as Jesus did. We are a people set apart, consecrated to serve God and others. This is what we mean by the common priesthood of the faithful.

? How do you live out your baptismal call to share in the priesthood of Christ?

The Ordained Priesthood

Those men who receive the Sacrament of Holy Orders share in the ordained ministry of service or the ministerial priesthood. This means that these ordained men are at the service of the common priesthood—they are consecrated in Christ's name for the good of all the faithful. Their solemn promises are a sign of being consecrated for the sake of the Kingdom of God (see Matthew 19:11–12). Through them, Christ continues to build up and serve the Church.

FAITH FOCUS

Why are Holy Orders and Matrimony called Sacraments at the Service of Communion?

FAITH VOCABULARY

communion

Communion is the unity in Christ of all the members of the Church, the Body of Christ; the word is from two Latin words meaning "sharing with." Full communion refers to full initiation into the Church.

Ordination

Ordination is the Sacrament of Holy Orders in which a baptized man is consecrated to serve the Church as a bishop, priest, or deacon.





Faith-Filled People

Venerable Jean Gailhac

Jean Gailhac was born in France in 1802. In his early work as a priest, he served the poor and most marginalized of society. After he started his first shelter, a wealthy widow, Appolinie Cure, joined him in his work and became the leader of a new religious community he founded, the Institute of the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary. She took the name of Mother Saint Jean. She transformed the shelter for women into a place of safety for young girls at risk and started a boarding school. Today, the sisters serve in educational and social ministries in fourteen countries around the world, including France, Ireland, the United States, Brazil, and Zimbabwe.

Degrees of Holy Orders

The Sacrament of Holy Orders and the Sacrament of Matrimony are the two Sacraments at the Service of **Communion**. Holy Orders, or **Ordination**, is the Sacrament in which a baptized man shares in a unique way the priesthood of God as a bishop, priest, or deacon.

The three degrees of Holy Orders are the episcopate (bishops), the presbyterate (priests), and the diaconate (deacons). An ordained man becomes a member of the “order” of bishop, priest, or deacon through the Rite of Ordination as conferred by a bishop.

Unbroken Powers

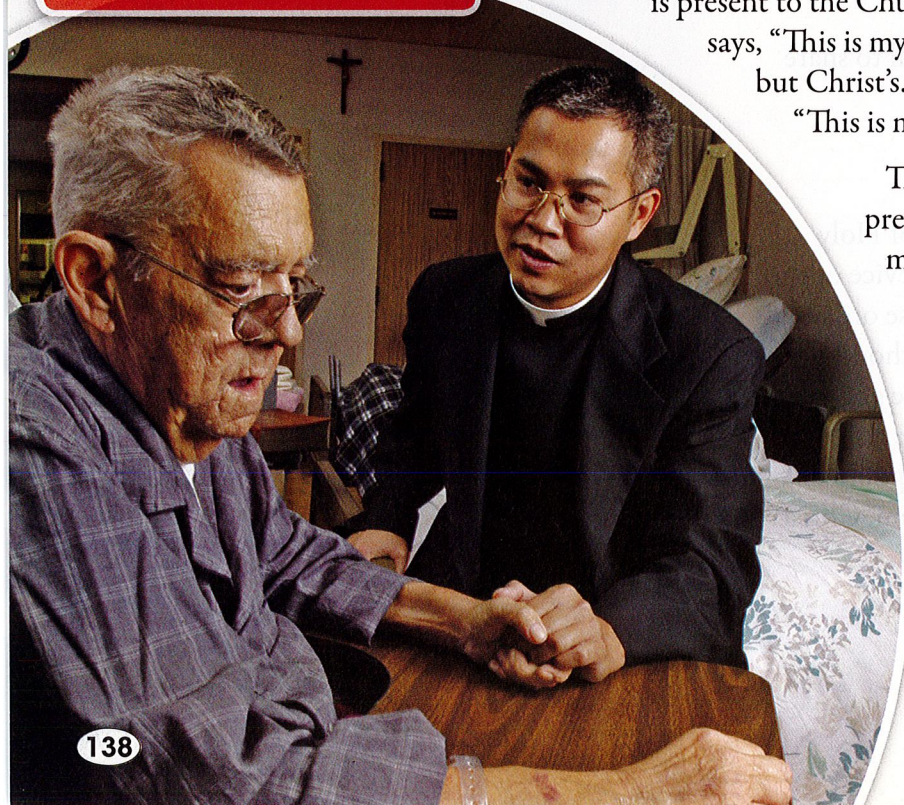
Holy Orders is celebrated by the laying on of hands by a bishop on the head of a man to be ordained, which is followed by a prayer of consecration. Holy Orders, like Baptism and Confirmation, can be received only once and marks the man who is ordained with a spiritual character forever.

During the Ordination of a bishop, the powers conferred on the Apostles by Christ himself remain unbroken through the centuries by the laying on of hands. The Church refers to this passing on of the gift of the Holy Spirit as the apostolic succession, making a bishop the guardian of the work of Christ.

? Why is the apostolic succession important to understanding Church authority?

Bishops and priests share in the priesthood of Christ in a unique way. The Sacrament of Holy Orders enables bishops and priests to act in the person of Christ. When they serve the Church, Christ himself is present to the Church. For example, at Mass when the priest says, “This is my Body,” he is not referring to his own body, but Christ’s. Through the priest or bishop, Christ says, “This is my Body.”

Through the ordained ministry, the presence of Christ as Head of the Church is made visible to the faithful; however, this does not mean that the ordained man is not without fault or sin. This means that priests and bishops remind us of the reality that Christ himself is present when they exercise the office of their ministry.



Shepherds of the Flock

During the Rite of Ordination, the bishop is entrusted with the care of the Church. He is appointed by the Holy Spirit to attend to the whole flock, or the faithful, of his particular diocese.

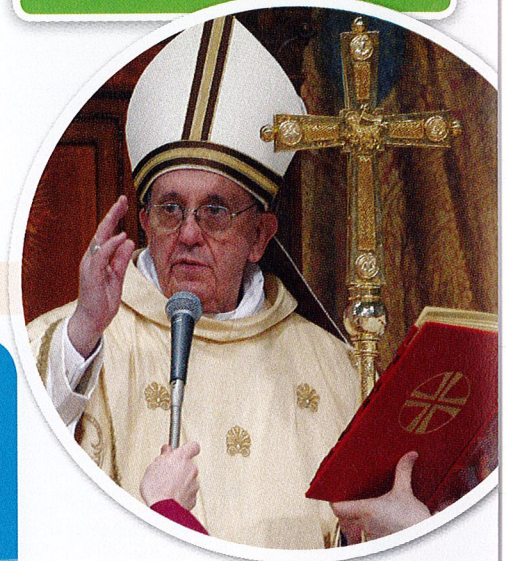
A bishop is a teacher, priest, and shepherd. He promises to guide his people in the way of Salvation, showing kindness and compassion. Bishops seek out people who are lost and gather them into the fold for the Lord. With the help of God and until the end of his life, the bishop is to be faithful and constant in proclaiming the Gospel.

Continuing Apostolic Ministry

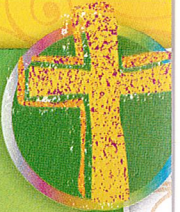
When a bishop is ordained, he receives the fullness of the Sacrament and continues the ministry of the Apostles. At the same time, bishops work in communion with the Pope, who is the bishop of Rome and successor of Saint Peter. A bishop serves as the visible head of a diocese and is a sign of her unity.

Bishops also have the duty to teach the faith; celebrate divine worship, above all the Eucharist; and guide their local Churches as true pastors. The priests are the coworkers of the bishops, whereas the deacons are the helpers of the bishops. Each bishop shares the responsibility for the Universal Church with the Pope.

Pope Francis



Catholics Believe



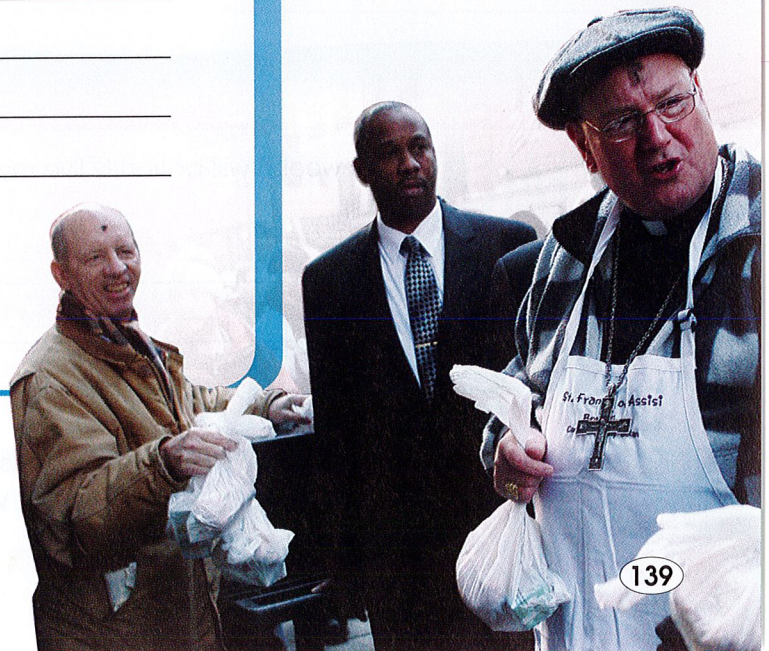
Male Ordination

As with all vocations, the life of the priest is a calling. The Church recognizes herself to be bound by Christ's choice of only men to form the ministerial priesthood. The priesthood is a sacramental sign of Christ. Men, called to this vocation in the Catholic Church, humbly submit to the authority of the Church in service to her.

Activity

Ask the Pastor

Brainstorm with a small group some questions you would like to ask your pastor about his work. Write your questions here. If possible, invite the pastor to visit your class so you can all ask your questions in person.



I FOLLOW JESUS

Every Christian is joined to Christ in Baptism and is called to live a life of generous service to God and others as Jesus did. The Church needs many more priests and religious sisters and brothers to meet the needs of the People of God.

MY SERVICE DIARY

Imagine that you are a priest or religious sister serving others here or in a missionary land. Write an entry in your journal describing a typical day in your life.

DATE

MY FAITH CHOICE

This week, I will patiently live my baptismal call to serve others as Jesus did.

I will



Pray, "Lord Jesus Christ, true High Priest of all, teach me how to serve others out of love for you. Amen."

Chapter Review

Fill in the circle next to the word or phrase that completes each sentence correctly.

1. The word ____ is used to point out the sharing of Christians in the life of Christ.
 sacrifice communion service Gentiles
2. The priesthood of all the faithful refers to the Sacrament of _____.
 Marriage Eucharist Baptism Holy Orders
3. The ordained priesthood refers to the Sacrament of _____.
 Marriage Eucharist Baptism Holy Orders
4. The ____ serves as the visible head of a diocese and is a sign of her unity.
 Apostle bishop cardinal pastor

TO HELP YOU REMEMBER

1. Every Christian is joined to Christ in Baptism and is called to live a life of generous service to God and others as Jesus did.
2. Holy Orders consecrates a baptized man to serve the whole Church as a bishop, priest, or deacon.
3. When a bishop is ordained, he receives the fullness of the Sacrament of Holy Orders.

Prayer For Vocations

Throughout the many dioceses in the United States, parishes pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious community life. Here is a prayer for vocations from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops that you can pray as a class.

**God our Father,
you will all men and women to be saved
and come to the knowledge of your Truth.
Send workers into your great harvest
that the Gospel may be preached
to every creature
and your people, gathered together
by the word of life
and strengthened by
the power of the sacraments,
may advance in the way
of salvation and love.
I ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.
Amen.**



With My Family

This Week ...

In **Chapter 15**, "The Sacrament of Holy Orders," your child learned that:

- ▶ God calls some members of the Church to live their baptismal calling by serving the whole Church through the Sacraments at the Service of Communion.
- ▶ Responding to one's vocation takes virtuous living. Patience, a Fruit of the Holy Spirit, involves the wisdom of knowing how to wait for truth while actively seeking grace.
- ▶ In Holy Orders, a baptized man is ordained as a bishop, priest, or deacon to serve the whole Church by continuing the unique work of Jesus that was entrusted to the Apostles.

For more about related teachings of the Church, see the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1533-1600, and the *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*, pages 261-275.

Sharing God's Word

Read together Mark 10:42-45. Emphasize that each of us receives a special call or vocation from God to serve him and the whole community of the People of God, the Church.

We Live as Disciples

The Christian family and home form a school of discipleship. Choose one of the following activities to do as a family, or design a similar activity of your own:

- ▶ Review your parish bulletin or Web site to see in which ministries each family member can serve. Take time to find out about each and discern the best match.

- ▶ Include in your family prayers a particular blessing for your parish priests and local bishop. Remember also the Pope who serves the Universal Church.

Our Spiritual Journey

The use of the spiritual discipline of discernment enables us to come to know both our vocation and how to live it. Discernment is the prayerful reflection on our gifts and talents. It is coming to know who God created us to be and how we can live the dismissal command given at the end of Mass to glorify God by our lives.



For more ideas on ways that your family can live as disciples of Jesus, visit

www.BeMyDisciples.com