

Week 31

Paragraphs 1539–1589



THE CATECHISM IN A YEAR

WITH FR. MIKE SCHMITZ

f faith.⁸² By “analogy of faith” we mean the

How We Worship PART TWO: THE CELEBRATION OF THE CHRISTIAN MYSTERY

THE HOLY ORDERS OF OUR CHURCH

While there is a definite hierarchy in the Church, Holy Orders is a vocation of service for the salvation of others. Jesus wants all of us to be holy by coming into contact with him; he established the priesthood into the world to extend and continue his mission. Holy Orders is a trifold office of making holy, instructing, and governing in imitation of Christ’s trifold office of Priest, Prophet, and King.

Keep in Mind

- Holy Orders consecrates bishops, priests, and deacons who pass on the “sacred power” of Jesus Christ (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1538).
- To administer Holy Orders, the bishop lays hands on the man being ordained and offers a consecratory prayer for God to give the man the graces necessary for his calling.
- Everyone baptized shares in the priesthood of Jesus, but only those in the ministerial priesthood (bishops and priests) can act *in persona Christi*.
- The bishops sanctify, instruct, and govern through their leadership in their own dioceses.
- A bishop is responsible for every soul, Catholic and otherwise, in his diocese.
- Priests promise obedience to their bishops, but they are brother workers in serving the Church.
- The priest’s most sacred role is consecrating the Eucharist.
- Deacons assist bishops and priests by serving at Mass, proclaiming the Gospel, celebrating marriages, presiding over funerals, and other works.
- The Church does not have the ability to ordain women because “the Lord Jesus chose men” exclusively when he instituted Holy Orders (CCC 1577).
- “Only a baptized man (*vir*) validly receives sacred ordination” (CCC 1577).



Jesus washes his disciples’ feet
by Orazio de Ferrari (1606–1657)

Dive Deeper

Jesus’ act of washing his disciples’ feet emphasizes that Holy Orders is a sacrament of sacrifice and service.

“Can Women Be Ordained Priests in the Catholic Church?” is an *Ascension Presents* video featuring Fr. Josh Johnson explaining why Holy Orders can be conferred only upon baptized men.



- Jesus countered his own culture by elevating women, making clear women and men are equal in dignity and equal heirs to grace.
- Like Baptism and Confirmation, Holy Orders places a permanent mark upon the soul of the recipient, so the sacrament cannot be given twice or removed.
- The graces conferred by the sacraments come from Jesus, so a priest's flaws cannot alter what Jesus bestows.
- Priests are holy only to the extent of how well they imitate Christ.

Use the space below to reflect on this week's content.

Take It to Prayer

God our Father, thank you for the gift of Holy Orders. Thank you for priests, bishops, and our Holy Father, the pope. Please preserve and protect priests. Give them zeal and love. Make up for what they lack so they can teach, sanctify, and govern your Church as you would. We pray this through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.



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The Catechism in a Year is a daily podcast produced by Ascension and hosted by Fr. Mike Schmitz. It helps us understand what it means to be Catholic by reading the entire *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and allowing those truths to shape our lives. This bulletin was adapted from the books that complement the podcast: *The Catechism in a Year Companions* by Petroc Willey, Fr. Mike Schmitz, and Matthew Doeing.