

# 2020-2021 RCIA #21

3/8/21

# Part III: The Sacraments and Prayer (Chapter 34)

- Holy Orders
  - What Is a Priest?
  - What Is Holy Orders?
  - Bishop – and Others

# Holy Orders

- A Priest is one called from the community to offer a gift to God
- The purpose of a sacrifice is to give the group worship to God, acknowledge Him as supreme, thank Him for His blessings and to atone for human sins and ask for benefits
- God does not need our gifts since He created everything in the first place
- Prior to the sacrifice of Christ there were nothing offered worthy of God

# Holy Orders (Cont)

- For all times priests have been selected to offer sacrifices
  - Adam, Noah, Abraham (Ram/Lamb)
  - Oldest son
  - Order of *Melchezadech*
  - Priestly tribe of Levi
  - Jesus Christ and the new priesthood and the Sacrifice of the Mass established on Holy Thursday

# Holy Orders (Cont)

- The Mass is the perfect vehicle established by Christ to offer the sacrifice
- Christ is both High Priest and Sacrificial Lamb
- The Apostles as the first priests (on Holy Thursday) were given the authority from Christ to celebrate the Eucharist
- They performed the transubstantiation of the bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ
- This was the power to offer the sacrifice and forgive sins in the name of Jesus and within His mystical body, the Church, which has been passed down from them

# Holy Orders (Cont)

- The passing on of this authority is called “**Holy Orders**” and is administered by the Bishops via the laying on of hands
- This authority can be seen in Acts 6:5-7
- The priesthood is a calling from God via His Church through His Bishops after completion of a period of seminary study

# Holy Orders (Cont)

- Criteria for Priesthood
  - A man, 24 years old, from validly married catholic parents, in the state of grace with exceptionally good character, who has the right intention of dedicating himself to the service of God in the priesthood
  - Also he must have successfully completed a course of study including 4 years of High School, 4 years of college and 4 years of seminary theology

# Holy Orders (Cont)

- The levels of Holy Orders include:
  - **Deacons** who may baptize, preach and administer communion
    - Permanent
    - Transitional
  - **Priests** who may also celebrate the Mass and forgive sins
  - **Bishops** who may also confirm, ordain priests and deacons



# Holy Orders (Cont)

- A bishop is the head of a diocese
- Designated by the pope
- Ordained by the laying on of hands by other bishops with succession back to the Apostles
- Receives the power to confirm and ordain deacons and priests
- Receives the final mark from the Holy Spirit (Baptism, Confirmation, Diaconate, Priesthood)
- One who receives holy orders can never lose their powers

# Holy Orders (Cont)

- Pope, Cardinal, Monsignor are not higher Holy Orders
  - Pope as the Bishop of Rome and head of the Roman Catholic Church can:
    - Select cardinals and bishops
    - Administer the Holy See, or the Vatican State
    - Has authority over the entire church
    - May speak infallibly *ex cathedra* on matters of faith and morals

# Holy Orders (Cont)

- A bishop who is the head of a diocese is known as an ***ordinary*** bishop
- A bishop without a diocese is known as a ***titular*** bishop and may be assigned to assist another bishop as an auxiliary bishop
- Dioceses are grouped into provinces and the ordinary is called an ***arch-bishop***
- Dioceses are further divided into deaneries administered by the senior diocesan priest known as the dean

# Holy Orders (Cont)

- Diocesan priests are assigned to a parish by the bishop
- Order priests are assigned to an order like the Franciscans, Dominicans or Jesuits
- ***Monsignor*** is an honorary title given to a priest for exemplary service