

# THE ORDINATION OF PRIESTS

## Prayer of Ordination of Priests

(Chapter II, no. 131)

Draw near, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eter - nal God, au -  
thor of human dignity and bestower of all grac-es, through whom  
all things progress, through whom everything is made firm, who,  
by the power of the Holy Spirit, in order to form a priestly people,  
establish among them ministers of Christ your Son in var - i - ous  
or-ders. Al-ready in the earlier covenant there arose offices insti-  
tuted by mys - ti - cal rites: so that when you had set Moses and  
Aaron over your people to govern and sanc - ti - fy them, you chose  
men next in or - der and dig - ni - ty to join them and assist them  
in their work. Thus in the desert, you instilled the spirit of Moses  
in the minds of seventy wise men; with them as helpers he more  
easily governed your peo-ple. So too, over the sons of Aaron

you poured an abundant share of their father's fullness, that the number of priests prescribed by the Law might be sufficient for the sacrifices of the tab-er-nac-le, which were a shadow of the good things to come. But in these last days, holy Father, you sent your Son into the world, Jesus, the A-pos-tle and High Priest of our confession. Through the Holy Spirit, he offered himself unblemished to you and made his Apostles, who were consecrated in the truth, sharers in his mission; to them you add-ed com-pan-ions to proclaim and carry out the work of sal-va-tion through all the world. Now, we pray, O Lord, provide also for our weakness these helpers whom we need for the exercise of the Apos-tol-ic Priesthood.

Grant, we pray, almighty Father, to these your servants the dignity  
of the Priesthood; re - new deep within them the Spir - it of  
ho - li-ness; may they hold the office second in order, received from  
you, O God, and by the example of their manner of life may they in-  
spire right conduct.

May they be trustworthy co-workers with our Order, so that by their  
preaching and through the grace of the Ho-ly Spir-it, the words of the  
Gospel may bear fruit in human hearts and reach even to the ends of  
the earth. To-gether with us, may they be faithful stewards of your  
myster-ies, so that your people may be renewed through the cleans-  
ing waters of rebirth and refreshed from your al - tar, so that sinners  
may be rec-on-ciled and the sick raised up. May they be joined to  
us, Lord, in imploring your mercy for the peo-ple entrusted to them

and for the whole world. Thus, may the full number of the nations,  
gathered togeth-er in Christ, become your one peo-ple, brought to  
perfection in your Kingdom. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your  
Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Ho-ly Spir-it,  
All:  
God, for ev-er and ev - er. A - men.

The English translation and chants of *Ordination of a Bishop, of Priests, and of Deacons*  
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