



Holy Orders

Holy Orders is the sacrament through which the mission entrusted by Christ to his apostles continues to be exercised in the Church until the end of time...It includes three degrees of order: episcopate, presbyterate, and diaconate. Deacons, priest and bishops are essential to the Catholic Church because we believe that they continue the work begun by the apostles.

Since the beginning, the ordained ministry has been conferred and exercised in three degrees: that of bishops, that of presbyters, and that of deacons. The ministries conferred by ordination are irreplaceable for the organic structure of the Church: without the bishop, presbyters, and deacons, one cannot speak of the Church.

Ordination is the rite at which the Sacrament of Holy Orders is bestowed. The bishop confers the Sacrament of Holy Orders by the laying on of hands which confers on a person (man or woman) the grace and spiritual power to celebrate the Church's sacraments.

The sacrament of Holy Orders is conferred by the laying on of hands followed by a solemn prayer of consecration asking God to grant the ordained the graces of the Holy Spirit required for his ministry. Ordination imprints an indelible sacramental character.

Who Receives Holy Orders?

The Ecumenical Catholic Communion confers the sacrament of Holy Orders on both man and woman, whose suitability for the exercise of the ministry has been duly recognized. Church authority as well as the faithful community has the responsibility and right to call someone to receive the sacrament of Holy Orders.