

Holy Orders Is a Sacrament of Service

Keep these ideas in mind as you study Chapter 19.

- Bishops, priests, and deacons make up the ordained priesthood. All baptized Catholics share in the common priesthood.
- Men are ordained through the Sacrament of Holy Orders to act in the person of Christ. The rite of the sacrament is called ordination.
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- A stole is a sign of the priesthood.

 Deacons wear stoles, but only on their left shoulders. During the Sacrament of Holy Orders, when a deacon is ordained as a priest, the stole is put around his neck. Priests and bishops wear their stoles around their necks. A chasuble is another vestment of the priesthood. It is worn over the other vestments at Mass.

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- During ordination, the bishop anoints the palms of the men with chrism. This is because Jesus used his hands for God's work, and the priest will do the same.
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- Priests serve the Church and their communities in many ways. Celebrating the Eucharist is their greatest privilege.

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- Some priests do not serve one parish. They might belong to religious orders, such as the Jesuits, or serve in other ways, as missionaries or chaplains, for example.
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- Deacons are ordained to help priests and bishops. Deacons may be married or unmarried, but they must be at least 35 years old.
- A man serves as a deacon before he is ordained as a priest. Not all deacons intend to become priests, though.

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Deacons assist priests and bishops in many different ways. Some ways that deacons can help include presiding at Baptisms, distributing Holy Communion, and preaching a Homily. Deacons can assist with the Eucharistic celebration, but they do not preside.

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The bishops are the chief shepherds of the Church. A bishop carries a crosier, which looks like the staff of a shepherd. He also wears a pointed hat called a miter.
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