

DOMINICANA

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ORDINATIONS



OR EVERY HIGHPRIEST taken from among men is appointed for men in the things pertaining to God, that he may offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He is able to have compassion on the ignorant and erring, because he himself is beset with weakness, and by reason thereof is obliged to offer for sins, as on behalf of the people, so also for himself. And no man takes the honor to himself; he takes it who is called by God as Aaron was. St. Paul to the Hebrews, ch. 5, v. 1-4.

Ordination to the priesthood is at once an end and a beginning. It marks the end of the long, hidden years of preparation of mind and heart for the ministry which lies ahead. It marks the beginning of that longed-for joy, the breath-taking thought of a man calling God down from heaven and holding Him in his consecrated hands; of the joy known only to a priest of reconciling sinners to God; the beginning too of the ministry of preaching and teaching, of the assumption of that tender and meaningful title of Father. The priest is father to the young and old, to the wise and the unlearned, the strong and the weak. He rejoices with the happy, sympathizes with the stricken, sorrows for the wayward.

His place is secure among his people for he is the beacon light, enlightening their paths with his word and example. At every decisive moment of their lives he stands beside them: At birth, he ushers them into the Church, by Baptism; he seals the bond of love between man and woman in Matrimony; he prepares their souls when the door of death is opening to receive them; constantly throughout their lives he brings them the Bread of Life to nourish their souls, and removes from them the stain of sin. Taken from among men at the command of God, he is truly the minister of Christ and the dispenser of the mysteries of God.

To the newly ordained we their brethren extend our congratulations, and we share in the joy of their parents and relatives. We offer them our best wishes for a happy and fruitful service in the ministry of Jesus Christ.