

DOMINICANA

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"And I will give you pastors according to my own heart and they shall feed you with knowledge and doctrine" (Jer. 3, 15).



AFTER the Last Supper the prayer of Christ for His disciples rose up to the Heavenly Father, "They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in truth" (John 17, 16). Priests today, sharing in the Eternal Priesthood of Christ as did the disciples, are not of this world. They are chosen ones set apart, for "they alone, in answer to an inward supernatural call have entered the august ministry, where they are assigned to serve in the sanctuary . . . they alone have been marked with the indelible sign 'conforming' them to Christ the Priest . . ." (*Mediator Dei* of Pope Pius XII). The priest truly "lends his tongue and gives his hand" to Christ, offering the same Sacrifice to God in the unbloody manner of the Mass as Christ offered in blood on Calvary.

By this special call to be another Christ, the priest is consecrated to praise, to give thanks, to offer expiation, to impetrate for his people in the very Person of Jesus Christ Who "is not entered into the holies made with hands . . . but into heaven itself, to appear now before the face of God in our behalf" (Heb. 9, 24). By their share in Christ's Eternal Priesthood they bring the grace of Christ to the faithful through the Sacraments that He Himself instituted. By their ministry in the name of Jesus Christ they show the faithful His way, teach them His truth, give them His life. They are a fulfillment in the New Law of the promise made to Jeremias for the Jews of the Old Law, "And I will give you pastors according to my own heart and they shall feed you with knowledge and doctrine." They are pastors patterned to the prayer of His own Sacred Heart, "For them I sanctify myself that they also may be sanctified in truth. Yet not for these only do I pray, but for those also who through their word are to believe in me" (John 17, 19-21).

Dominicana offers sincere congratulations to the newly consecrated priests of the Dominican Order. May they who are ordained TO PRAISE, TO BLESS, TO PREACH have the full joy of being pastors according to His heart, overflowing with knowledge and doctrine, sanctified in truth.