

The Rite of Ordination to the Priesthood

June 2, 2018

10:00am

The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

Election of the Candidates

- The candidates are seated with their families and are called forward, symbolizing that their families give them to the Church for service of God's people.
- The vocation director and the bishop have a dialogue saying that the candidates have been found worthy.
- The people give their assent by applause.

The Promises

- The candidates make 5 promises: to work in conjunction with the bishop, to preach the Gospel and teach the Catholic faith, to celebrate the Eucharist and Sacrament of Reconciliation reverently and faithfully, to observe the command to pray without ceasing, to be united more closely each day to Christ the High Priest.
- The candidates then make the promise of obedience to the bishop by kneeling down in front of him and placing their hands within his.

Litany of Supplication

- The candidates lie down on the floor face down as a sign of their submission to the will of God and their desire to serve the Church.
- The Litany of Saints is sung as the candidates lie prostrate.

Laying on of Hands

- The candidates kneel down before the bishop and he lays his hands on their head. This is an ancient Biblical gesture. The Apostles laid hands on those that wished to receive the Holy Spirit.
- The rest of the priests in attendance then lay hands on the candidates. This is an ancient ritual symbolizing the fraternity and brotherhood that is shared in the priesthood.
- The bishop then prays the Prayer of Ordination over the candidates. At the conclusion of the laying on of hands and prayer of ordination, the candidates are priests.

Investiture with Stole and Chasuble

- The newly ordained priests are vested with priestly vestments of a stole and chasuble.
- Usually it is a priest who is a mentor or friend to the newly ordained who does the vesting.

Anointing of Hands

- The newly ordained priests' hands are anointed with Chrism oil (the same oil used at Baptism, Confirmation, and Ordination as a Bishop).
- The hands are anointed to consecrate them for the purpose of bringing the sacraments, especially the Eucharist and the Sacrament of Reconciliation, to the people that the new priests will serve.

Presentation of Bread and Wine

- The gifts of bread and wine are brought forth, usually by family members of the newly ordained.
- The bishop holds the gifts and the newly ordained wrap their hands around the chalice and paten (containing the bread and wine) as the bishop says, "Receive from the Holy People of God the gifts to be offered to God. Know what you do, imitate what you celebrate, and conform your life to the mystery of the Lord's cross."

Sign of Peace

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- Every priest in attendance gives the sign of peace to the newly ordained priests.

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- The Mass then continues as normal.

Eucharistic Prayer

- The newly ordained priests participate in the Consecration and Eucharistic prayer for the first time.

First Blessing

- At the end of Mass, the newly ordained priests give the first of their first blessings to the bishop as he kneels down before them.