

Study Guide: Sacrament of the Holy Orders

To study the topic of the Sacrament of Holy Orders, consult the paragraphs indicated in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC). **Note that the "In Brief" sections may help answer the questions below.**

1. The Catechism says that no one can proclaim the Gospel to himself. Why is a "proclaimer of the Gospel" needed? In whose person does the minister act? (CCC 874-875)
2. The Catechism lists several "characters" of the priestly ministry. What are they? (CCC 875-879)
3. Explain the origin of the word "ordination". (CCC 1537-1538)
4. Although the Church does not ordain according to the order of Aaron, what is the use of the Levitical priesthood for Christians? How is this attitude reflected in the liturgy of ordination? (CCC 1539-1543)
5. How does the Church understand the priesthood of Christ? (CCC 1544-1545)
6. What does the Catholic Church believe about the common priesthood of the faithful? How does the "ministerial priesthood" differ from it? (CCC 1546-1547)
7. The phrase *in persona Christi capitis* means "in the person of Christ the head". How does that expression apply to the ministerial priesthood? (CCC 1548-1551)
8. If priests are not "the delegates of the community," what are they? (CCC 1552-1553)

9. How many “degrees of the priesthood” are there? How is the deacon different from the priest and the bishop? (CCC 1554)

10. The bishop has the “fullness of the priesthood”. What does that “fullness” mean in terms of what the bishop does? (CCC 1555-1558)

11. How do priests (presbyters) share in the priesthood of the bishop? What is the “high point” of the priestly office for the presbyter? (CCC 1562-1566)

12. What is the essential rite of the sacrament of Orders? Who can confer it? (CCC 1572-1576)

13. Who can be ordained? How is a man chosen for ordination? (CCC 1577-1578)

14. Describe the differences between the Western (Latin) and Eastern Churches with regard to the practice of celibacy. (CCC 1579-1580)

15. How long does the Sacrament of Orders last? If someone “quits the priesthood,” what happens to Orders then? (CCC 1581-1584)

16. How do all three “degrees of priesthood” (bishop, priest, deacon) exercise their roles as “Priest, Teacher, and Pastor”? (CCC 1585-1589)