



The year of the priest: some liturgical reflections

The Year of the Priest invites us to consider what our liturgical texts call us to understand about ordination. Most of the quotes below are directed towards priests, however some also include the deacons. Nevertheless the liturgy seeks to inspire us all towards our mission in Christ and support the ordained in their particular calling and pastoral ministry.

THE WORD

Receive the Gospel of Christ,
Whose herald you now are.
Believe what you read,
Teach what you believe,
And practice what you teach.
Ordination of Deacons (24)

MISSION

May they be faithful in working with the order of bishops,
so that the words of the gospel may reach the ends of the earth,
and the family of nations,
made one in Christ,
may become God's one, holy people.
Prayer of Consecration, Ordination of Deacons and Priests in the Same Ceremony (26)

THE MYSTERY OF THE CROSS

Accept from the holy people of God the gifts to be offered him.
Know what you are doing, and imitate the mystery you celebrate:
model your life on the mystery of the Lord's cross.
Presentation of the Gifts, Ordination of a Priest (26)

SERVICE

Always remember the example of the Good Shepherd who came not to be served but to serve, and to seek out and rescue those who were lost.
Homily, Ordination of a Priest (14)

[Christ] calls them to lead your holy people in love,
nourish them by your word,
and strengthen them through the sacraments
Preface of Priesthood (Chrism Mass)

THE EUCHARIST

We come then to this wonderful sacrament
To be fed at your table
And grow into the likeness of the risen Christ
Preface of the Holy Eucharist II

COSMIC DIMENSIONS

Earth unites with heaven
To sing the new song of creation
As we adore and praise you for ever;
Preface of the Holy Eucharist II

RECONCILIATION

God, the Father of mercies,
through the death and reconciliation of his Son
has reconciled the world to himself
and sent the Holy Spirit among us
for the forgiveness of sins;
Rite of Penance

HEALING

You felt compassion for the crowd,
And went about doing good and healing the sick:
R/ Christ, have mercy

You commanded your apostles
To lay their hands on the sick in your name:
R/ Lord, have mercy
Pastoral Care of the Sick (245)

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