



“Whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all. For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many”
(Mark 10:43-45)

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This month we focus on:

I. Holy Orders

II. Matrimony

Saints of the Month:



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Word to know:

Holy Orders
Degrees of Holy Orders
Consecration
Marriage

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Do activity #4
“The Sacrament of Holy Orders

St. Gianna Beretta Mollas:

Gianna Beretta Molla was an Italian Catholic pediatrician. Although aware of possible fatal consequences, Molla refused both an abortion and a hysterectomy during her pregnancy with her fourth child in order to preserve the child's life. She gave her life for her child, who survived her. Saint Gianna Beretta Molla is an example of the eternal and sacrificial love a mother has for her child. It is the same love Jesus had for us.

Holy Orders

Christ promised that He would never leave us or forsake us.

- One of the ways He fulfills this promise is through the Sacrament of Holy Orders.
- In Holy Orders, He approaches us in the person of the priest, a human being we can see and hear.
- Christ calls some men to teach, strengthen and guide His Church.

The Sacrament of Holy Orders is the Sacrament in which those men are **consecrated** in Christ’s name to continue the mission that was entrusted by Him to the apostles.”

1. The Sacrament of the Ministerial Priesthood
2. The Sacrament of Ordained Priesthood
3. The Sacrament of Apostolic Ministry

The Sacrament of Holy orders does not make men immune from weakness and sin. Priests are still human and capable of grave sin and have many weaknesses.

The Sacrament does guarantee that the grace of the sacraments is valid and effective even when they are performed by a sinful minister.

When a priest is administering the sacraments, it is not him acting, but Christ is the minister of the sacraments through the priest and the priest is acting in the person of Christ.

- Not only does Christ act through the minister, He also calls men to be ordained Priests.
- No one has a right to receive the Sacrament of Holy Orders.
- A call to Holy Orders is a call to serve.

There are three degrees of the Sacrament of Holy Orders

1. The highest degree is Bishop
 - When a Bishop is consecrated He receives the fullness of Holy Orders.
 - We can trace the unbroken line of apostolic succession through the bishops.
 - A Bishop serves in the place of Christ the teacher, shepherd, and priest in the fullest sense.
 - Only a Bishop can administer the Sacrament of Holy Orders and he is also the ordinary minister of the Sacrament of Confirmation.
 - He has care over a particular church (diocese) given to him by the pope.
 - He is responsible along with the other bishops for the apostolic mission of the Church.
 - Only the pope can appoint someone to become ordained a bishop.
 - In order to fulfill their mission Bishops ordain Priests to assist in their ministerial duties.
2. A Priest is an extension of a Bishop. He can only exercise his ministry in dependence on the Bishop.
 - Priests receive charge over a parish or a particular ministry from their bishop.
 - The Priest is the ordinary ministry of the Sacraments other than Confirmation and Holy Orders.
 - While the Bishop is charged specifically with “teaching” and “governing” the Priest is charged with “sanctifying.”
3. The third degree of Holy Orders is Deacons
 - Deacons can be transitional or permanent.
 - A transitional deacon is a deacon on his way to becoming a priest.
 - A permanent deacon merely seeks to serve the Church in this role with no calling to the priesthood. They can often be married and have other “jobs” or careers in addition to the service they provide to the Church.

Began with Jesus Christ " PG:240-242 AB:260-261

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- Deacons are ordained by their local bishop and are assigned a special ministry by him.
- A deacon may serve at the celebration of the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist.
- He may distribute Holy Communion, bless marriages, baptize, preside over funerals, proclaim the Gospel, and preach, and dedicate himself to various charitable ministries.
- We all share in the common priesthood of believers.

Through Baptism, Christ has given the laity the right and duty to participate in His priesthood through our participation in Mass, Confession, prayer, and almsgiving.

The job of a priest is to offer sacrifice. By making our lives an offering for others and for Christ, we are participating in the common priesthood of believers.

In order to fulfill the mission of the common priesthood we need the Sacraments and their graces. This is where Holy Orders comes in. We need the ministerial priesthood in order to fulfill our own common priesthood.

Now let's discuss the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony

Matrimony

- This is probably one of the most difficult topics to discuss in today's culture.
- Many of us probably know cohabiting couples who are not married.
- Many of us probably know someone who has left the Church over a difficult marriage.
- Many of us probably know someone who doesn't understand or fully embrace what the Church teaches about this beautiful Sacrament.
- Some of us here may have been divorced and gone through the annulment process, or are currently going through it now.

At the very beginning of creation God made it clear that marriage was part of His original plan.

- He is the author of marriage.
- In the beginning He created man in His image; He created them male and female.
- God, who is love, created man and woman in His image.
- Thus the God given vocation of every human being is love.
- In a unique way man and woman were created for each other.

Genesis

(Genesis 2:18-24) & (Genesis 1:28)

- God creates man and woman for each other from the very beginning and joins them together in a covenant of love (marriage).
- God created marriage for the good of the spouses and the procreation and education of children.
- Marriage is indissoluble. It is an unbreakable bond entered into between one man and one woman.
- The spouses are called to lay down their life for one another.
- They are called to lead the other person to Heaven.
- The profound love between spouses is expressed in the sexual union between husband and wife.
- The sexual act should be unitive and procreative.
- The sexual act is also pleasurable.

"The acts in marriage by which the intimate and chaste union of the spouses takes place are noble and honorable; the truly human performance of these acts fosters the self-giving they signify and enriches the spouses in joy and gratitude... The Creator himself . . . established that in the [life-giving] function, spouses should experience pleasure and enjoyment of body and spirit. Therefore, the spouses do nothing evil in seeking this pleasure and enjoyment." (CCC 2362)

- God's creation was perfect and the union between man and woman in marriage was complete until sin entered.
- Marriage is essential to God's plan.
- The first Sacrament to be affected by sin and the one that is most frequently attacked today is marriage.
- To return to God's plan man and woman need the help of God's grace.
- Jesus raised marriage to a Sacrament.
- This Sacrament is a tremendous source of grace that helps spouses live their marriage according to God's original plan.

The Consent of Marriage

A Priest or Deacon is not the minister of the Sacrament of Marriage. The man and woman are the ministers. The Priest or Deacon merely serves as a witness.

- The exchange of consent between the couples is what confers the Sacrament.
- For a marriage to be valid it must have the following elements:
- The couple must be free to marry (not already married, of opposite sexes, not close relatives, etc.)
- They must freely consent and not be under constraint.
- They must have the intention of being married for life.
- They must have the intention to be faithful to one another.
- They must be open to children.
- Their consent must be given in the presence of two witnesses and before a properly authorized Church minister.
- The consent is expressed in the words of the marriage vows.

God's Call to Marriage

- Marriage is a vocation and not simply a personal preference or a state of life.
- God calls men and women to marriage for their growth in holiness and that they might also raise up saints through the children they may be blessed with.
- Marriage requires sacrifice and mutual self-giving so that two might become one flesh.
- Grace is necessary to make a marriage work and this grace is found in the couple participating in prayer and the other Sacraments together, especially the Eucharist.

- As parents, we should pray for our children and their vocations.