

The Sacraments of Matrimony and Holy Orders

Chapter 36 Summary

Chapter Learning Objectives

- The participants will explore the Sacraments of Matrimony and Holy Orders as Sacraments of service.
- The participants will recognize that God calls them to consider how they can use their gifts to serve others.

Content Summary

1. The two Sacraments that help adult Catholics live out their baptismal promises are the Sacrament of Matrimony and the Sacrament of Holy Orders.
2. When a baptized man and woman celebrate the Sacrament of Matrimony, Christ takes their imperfect love and joins it to his perfect love.
3. The celebration of the Sacrament of Matrimony is a sign of Christ's love for his Church.
4. The Sacrament of Matrimony is a covenant that must be entered into willingly.
5. A child is the supreme gift of married life, and being open to children is essential to marriage.
6. A vocation is a way of life people choose in response to God's call to live out their faith. Because marriage is a lifelong vocation, it is meant to be permanent.
7. Those who are divorced can marry and remain in communion with the Church if they receive an annulment—a declaration that means that when the wedding took place, the standards for a sacramental marriage did not exist.
8. The most important action of the Rite of Marriage is the consent (or vows). The rings are a symbol of these vows. Lastly, the newly married couple receives the nuptial blessing.
9. Those who choose to serve the Church as bishops, priests, or deacons also enter into a covenant to serve the People of God.
10. There is an Ordination Rite for each of the three types of ministerial service—deacon, priest, and bishop.
11. The Ordination Rite for a priest includes: the examination and promise, the Litany of the Saints, the laying on of hands and prayer of consecration, and the anointing of the priest's hands with Sacred Chrism. The Sacrament of Holy Orders bestows an indelible mark on the soul of the priest. The rite ends with the fraternal kiss, or sign of peace, shared with the bishop and the priests of the diocese or order.
12. The bishop receives the fullness of Holy Orders, because his mission is handed down directly from Christ through the line of bishops. Deacons do not receive the ministerial priesthood but share in Christ's mission in ministries of service under the authority of the bishop.

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