

# A Conversation about the Future of Priestly Ministry

## Which Place at the Table Will I Occupy?

Reflect carefully on the questions below, and respond in writing to each question.

- If the Church is compared to a family, how does a change in one member affect the others? (Give one example of how a family is affected and one example of how the Church or one of the Sacraments is affected.)
  
- How has our understanding of the Sacrament of Baptism changed over the last couple of generations?
  
- How does “the common priesthood of all the faithful” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1547) emphasized in the Sacraments of Christian Initiation influence the role of the laity in the Church?



- What role does the laity (you!) have today in the celebration of the Eucharist? How has this changed over the past couple of generations?
  
- What role does the laity (you!) have in reconciliation in the midst of a society plagued by consumerism, racism, sexism, and nationalism? Do the effects of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation go beyond Saturday afternoon in the confessional?
  
- The role of the priest prior to Vatican II was often described primarily as one of being “set apart” from others. Is the priest today to be set apart, or is the priest to become one with the community (or both)? Explain.

(The quotation labeled *Catechism of the Catholic Church* is from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* for use in the United States of America, second edition, number 1547. Copyright © 1994 by the United States Catholic Conference, Inc.—Libreria Editrice Vaticana [LEV]. English translation of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church: Modifications from the Editio Typica* copyright © 1997 by the United States Catholic Conference, Inc.—LEV.)

