

## Chapter 11

### Answer Key for Double-Check Questions

1. *What are the three orders of ministry to which men can be ordained?*

Men can be ordained to three orders of ministry: bishop, priest, or deacon.

2. *Why do the Rites of Ordination for bishops, priests, and deacons include references to the priesthood of the Old Covenant? Select one Old Testament reference and explain its significance in the Rite of Ordination.*

Although the priesthood of the Old Covenant could not bring salvation, the Church considers it a prefiguring of the ordained ministry established by Christ himself. This is why the rites of ordination include references to the priesthood of the Old Covenant. (The students may explain any one of the following Old Testament references: the seventy wise men chosen by Moses to help govern God's people; Aaron, the first high priest of the Israelites; the sons of Levi, the tribe chosen by God to be priests.)

3. *How does the priesthood of men called to ordained ministry differ from the common priesthood of all the baptized?*

The uniqueness of the ministerial priesthood lies in its call and commitment to serve the entire Church and to help all Christians live a life of grace in union with Jesus Christ. This unique priesthood gives men who are called to ordained ministry a unique responsibility that no layperson can fill.

4. *What are the three areas of responsibility for those in ordained ministry? Give one example of each.*

The three areas of responsibility for those in ordained ministry are as follows: teaching the faithful; leading divine worship (the liturgy), especially the Eucharist; and governing the Church. (The students may provide any suitable example of each area of responsibility.)

5. *To what vocation does God call each of us?*

Through Baptism, God calls each of us to ministry, to holiness, to Christian witness.

6. *How did the priesthood of the Old Testament find its fulfillment in Jesus Christ?*

Jesus fulfilled the priesthood of the Old Testament through the sacrifice of the New Covenant—the sacrifice not of a lamb but of himself. By this sacrifice, he conquered sin and brought salvation. Christ is therefore our new High Priest, one who has entered Heaven itself.

7. *How does a bishop or priest act in the person of Christ?*

Any priest (including a bishop) acts in the person of Christ because he is consecrated to preach the Gospel, to guide the People of God, and to celebrate the liturgy of the Church as a priest of the New Covenant. This is especially true in the Eucharist, in which priests act in the person of Christ to make present again his one sacrifice, when he offered himself for all.



8. *What are the essential elements of the Sacrament of Holy Orders?*

The essential elements of the Sacrament of Holy Orders are the laying on of hands and the speaking of the prayer of consecration, in which the presiding bishop asks God to grant to the man being ordained the graces of the Holy Spirit necessary for his ministry.

9. *What is the role of the bishop? the priest? the deacon?*

- The role of the *bishop* is to represent Christ himself as teacher, shepherd, and priest and to act as Christ's representative on Earth. He is a member of the college of bishops and is usually the visible head of the particular church (or diocese) to which he has been assigned. Each ordained bishop is in the line of Apostolic Succession.
- The role of the *priest* is to be a coworker of the bishop, united with the bishop in priestly dignity and guided by the bishop in his pastoral assignment and duties. Priests share with their bishop the authority of Christ himself in building up, making holy, and ruling his Body, the Church. This includes acting in the person of Christ to preach the Gospel, to guide the People of God, and to celebrate the liturgy of the Church.
- The role of the *deacon* is the ministry of service in the Church. Deacons carry out important functions in the ministry of the Word, divine worship, pastoral governance, and the service of charity and good works.

10. *Describe the special grace the Sacrament of Holy Orders gives to bishops, priests, and deacons.*

- The Sacrament of Holy Orders confers special grace on each of the three orders. On *bishops*, the sacrament confers the special grace of strength: to govern and guide, to love all, and to proclaim the Gospel to all. This strength allows him to give his life for his sheep.
- The sacrament fills *priests* with the Holy Spirit and confers the grace to approach the altar without shame, to proclaim the Gospel, to carry out the ministry of the Word, to offer spiritual sacrifice and gifts, and to renew God's people in Baptism.
- The sacramental grace for *deacons* is a wholehearted commitment to the People of God, in cooperation with the bishop and priests. In this commitment, deacons serve in the liturgy, proclaim the Word of God, and carry out works of love to all in need.

