

Sacraments at the Service of Communion

Lesson 22 Summary

Lesson Learning Objectives

- The participants will explore God's call to serve others through the Sacraments of Holy Orders and Marriage.
- The participants will explore some of the Bible's descriptions of the characteristics of the Sacrament of Matrimony.

Content Summary

1. A vocation is the committed state of life that God calls us to.
2. All baptized people share in the priesthood of Christ by virtue of their Baptism. The Church calls this the common priesthood of the faithful. Within this common priesthood, some people are called to unique participation in the mission of Christ through the Sacrament of Holy Orders.
3. The bishop, through the bishops' Ordination Rite, becomes a successor to the original Apostles and takes on all the responsibilities that Christ entrusted to them. As a member of the College of Bishops, he must lead the entire Church in union with the Pope. But a bishop is uniquely responsible for the diocese that he has been designated to lead as chief shepherd.
4. The priest is a coworker with the bishop of the diocese. All the priests of a diocese, united with the bishop, are called the presbyterium of the diocese. The presbyterium is responsible for the spiritual life of the diocese.
5. A deacon is ordained for works of service and liturgical ministry, as directed by the bishop.
6. There are three different Ordination Rites (rituals) corresponding to the three ordained ministries. The bishop is the ordinary minister for all three rites. The essential symbol is the bishop's laying his hands on the man to be ordained.
7. The Bible teaches us that the Sacrament of Matrimony signifies the union of Christ and the Church. The permanent nature of the marriage union symbolizes God's unending love for all humanity. The Sacrament gives a husband and wife the grace to love each other as Christ loves the Church.
8. A sacramental marriage has several meanings: (1) it is intended to bring unity between the spouses; (2) it is meant to be indissoluble, that is, the spouses are to commit to each other until death; (3) it is intended to be open to having children.
9. In a Catholic wedding, the spouses are the ministers of the Sacrament. The essential sacramental sign is the exchange of vows. The priest or deacon and two other people witness the marriage as representatives of the Church.

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