

Fifth Grade: Lesson 15

The Sacrament of Holy Orders

Lesson Objective:

This lesson is an in-depth study of the sacrament of Holy Orders. Many children have had little or no contact with ordained clergy. If possible, invite a deacon, priest, or bishop to speak to the class. Help children to understand that the role of the clergy is to administer the sacraments and to equip the laity to bring the gospel to the world, rather than be responsible for evangelizing the whole world themselves.

Learning Outcomes: Students will ...

- Explain Holy Orders as a celebration of the call to serve God's people through the ordained ministry (CCC 1536).
- Discuss the evolution of the priesthood in the early church (Acts 6:1-6; 1 Tim 5:17-25; 2 Tim 4:1-5; Heb. 5:1-6; James 5: 14-15).
- Relate the institution of the priesthood to the Last Supper (Luke 22:19; John 13:14-15; CCC 1341).
- Identify the three orders of Holy Orders and their roles: deacons, priests, bishops (CCC 1554).
- Discuss the difference between religious priests and diocesan priests (CCC 914-919, 925-927, 1568).
- List and explain the signs and symbols of Holy Orders (CCC 1573-1574, 1597).

Materials Needed:

- Prayer space items, Bible, pencils or pens,
- Copies: Holy Orders word search (optional), Priest, Monk, Father, Brother handout, The Last Supper and the Beginning of the Priesthood, The 3 Holy Orders, Game Questions.

As Students Enter Class:

- Have a word search available for students to keep busy while waiting for class to begin.
- [Holy Orders Word Search](#)

Beginning of Class:

- Gather around your prayer space and pray The Our Father.
- Ask students what do they know about Holy Orders? Hold a brief conversation based on students' sharing.

Lesson Order	Implementation Ideas
Lesson 15 Video	<p>This video is :43 in length.</p> <p>Highlights: In our last session we learned about the Sacrament of Matrimony, which is one of the Sacraments of Vocation and Service. Today we will discuss Holy Orders. Holy Orders are a celebration of the call to serve God's people through the ordained ministry.</p> <p>We have three orders of Holy Orders:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Deacons 2. Priests 3. Bishops <p>We will also learn about the difference between what diocesan and religious priests are.</p>
3 Levels of Holy Orders	<p>This video is 2:44 in length. It is a sketchpad video.</p> <p>Highlights: The Sacrament of Holy Orders has three levels.</p> <p>1 – The first level is the bishop: The bishop has the fullness of priestly authority. Through the laying on of hands he is connected in direct lineage with the Apostles. This direct line back to the Apostles is called Apostolic Succession. The bishop's responsibility is to guide a part of the faithful, to teach, and to sanctify them. This part of the Church is known as a Dioceses.</p> <p>2 – The second level is the priest: A priest is ordained by a bishop and entrusted with a specific task. Administering the sacraments is his main task. When a priest has the task to lead a church within a diocese, he is called a pastor. A vicar is a priest who supports the pastor.</p>

	<p>3 – The third level is the deacon: A deacon is ordained and commissioned to help the bishop or a priest. He can baptize and preside over marriages.</p> <p>You may be asking yourself, what about the Pope? Well, being the Pope doesn't actually mean a higher level of holy orders. Becoming the Pope is a result of an election. In terms of the Sacrament of Holy Orders, the Pope is the Bishop of Rome and a successor of St. Peter, the first Pope commissioned by Christ.</p> <p>Important to note is that this is a hierarchy of service, not rule.</p>
<p>Priest, Monk, Brother, Father: What Does it all Mean?</p>	<p>Read through this together and then discuss.</p>
<p>Holy Orders: What Ordination Means</p> <p>Stop and discuss along the way, since this is a longer video, especially if you find that helps students remain focused. You can always discuss at the end of the video if you prefer.</p>	<p>This video is 7:52 in length. It is a Busted Halo video and is well done, albeit lengthy.</p> <p>Highlights:</p> <p>QUESTION: What are Holy Orders and what happens in an ordination?</p> <p>Did you know all Catholics are priests? Through our Baptism, each of us is called to share in Christ's mission as priest, prophet, and king. Every time you make a sacrifice for someone else, or say grace before a meal, or bring faith into the workplace, you are participating in the priestly mission of Christ.</p>

Like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God.

- 1 Peter 2:5,9

Now, the Sacrament of Priesthood, is the Sacrament of Holy Orders. A priest cares for the spiritual needs of the people of God and for the institution of the Church. Catholic priests function in the person of Christ himself when celebrating the sacraments.

Holy Orders is the sacrament through which the mission entrusted by Christ to His apostles continues to be exercised in the Church until the end of time.

*- Catechism of the Catholic Church
(1536)*

The word ordination means to incorporate into an order.

Holy Orders changes a person forever; it's a spiritual and academic journey. The roots of Holy Orders are in the Bible and the Church teaches that this sacrament is the continuation of the priesthood that Christ Himself established.

Since Christ chose only men to be the first priests, only men may receive the Sacrament of Holy Orders. However, men and women fulfill many roles in the Church, such as nuns and other religious.

The video reviews the 3 levels of ordination:

		<u>sacraments</u>
	assist bishops, priests parishes, hospitals, prisons	2
	day-to-day spiritual care of the local parish	5
	primary faith teachers ultimate diocesan authority	7

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO SAY YES TO HOLY ORDERS?

Like the obedience Christ modeled for us, the priest to be promises to obey the Bishop they he will serve. He also makes a vow of celibacy, so he can love and serve all people.

Priests must also be humble. As a symbol of humility, the one to be ordained lies prostrate on the floor during his ordination. The people in the church call on the saints to pray over the newly ordained.

Once the bishop lays his hands on the head of the one being ordained, he is officially a priest.

Holy Orders Continued	<p>This video is 7:03 in length. It reviews most of the material covered in the previous video.</p> <p>It is up to your discretion whether or not you use this video. You know your students learning styles best.</p>
The Last Supper and the Beginning of the Priesthood	This activity uses two scripture passages for students to read and reflect upon how they relate to the beginning of the Priesthood.
The 3 Orders of Holy Orders	This sheet reviews the similarities and differences between Bishop, Priest, and Deacon.
Sacrament of Holy Orders Board Game	<p>As with the other lessons on sacraments, we have a board game. Most classes do not have enough time to play a game.</p> <p>However, you may like to print the questions and use them as a review. You may want to pass out a piece of candy as an incentive for correct answers and/or participation.</p>
Closing Prayer	Select a prayer of your own to end class.