

53. What are the effects of ordination to the priesthood?

The effects of ordination to the priesthood are:

first, an increase of sanctifying grace;

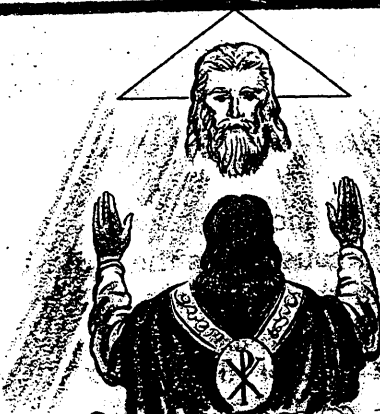
second, sacramental grace, through which the priest has God's constant help in his sacred ministry;

third, a character, lasting forever, which is a special sharing in the priesthood of Christ and which gives the priest special supernatural powers.

Christ is *THE ONE* priest in whom the fullness of the priesthood is found. All other priests share in the priesthood of Christ, as a mirror shares in the light of the sun. But just as a mirror really sheds light, so does the ordained priest really show forth the priesthood which he has from Christ through the priestly character.

**CHRIST OUR
HIGH PRIEST
IN HEAVEN**

—
"always living
to make
intercession
for us."
(Hebrews 7, 25)



**THE PRIEST
ON EARTH
ANOTHER
CHRIST**

—
The faithful
sharing through
the ordained
priest in the
Priesthood
of Christ



EXHIBIT

48

tabbles

454. What are the chief supernatural powers of the priest?

The chief supernatural powers of the priest are: to change bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, and to forgive sins in the sacrament of Penance.



The chief power of the priest is to offer the Sacrifice of the Mass. Here he exercises his office of reconciliation by applying to the people the power of the Cross of Christ to unite man to God in love.



The priest also administers the Sacrament of Penance to remove the chief obstacle to reconciliation, which is sin.

455. Why should Catholics show reverence and honor to the priest?

Catholics should show reverence and honor to the priest because he is the representative of Christ Himself and the dispenser of His mysteries.

"The priest is indeed another Christ, or in some way he is himself a continuation of Christ" (Pope Pius XI, Encyclical on the Priesthood)

456. Who is the minister of the sacrament of Holy Orders?

The bishop is the minister of the sacrament of Holy Orders.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does Extreme Unction comfort us in sickness?
2. When should we receive Extreme Unction?
3. When does Extreme Unction make sick people better?
4. Why can't babies receive Extreme Unction?
5. What qualities does a boy need to enter a seminary?
6. What does the sacramental grace of Holy Orders do for a priest?
7. Why does the human race need the priesthood?
8. What is the greatest power a priest has?
9. Why is it a great privilege to be a priest?
10. Whose work does the priest continue on earth?

B. ATTRIBUTES (or Qualities) of the Church

161. What are the chief attributes of the Catholic Church?

The chief attributes of the Catholic Church are authority, infallibility, and indefectibility. They are called attributes because they are qualities perfecting the nature of the Church.

162. What is meant by the authority of the Catholic Church?

By the authority of the Catholic Church is meant that the Pope and the bishops, as the lawful successors of the apostles, have power from Christ Himself to teach, to sanctify, and to govern the faithful in spiritual matters.

Authority is the power to command others. All authority is from God, and He gives it to the Church in spiritual matters. To refuse to obey the authority of the Church is to refuse to obey Christ. He Himself said to His disciples, "He who hears you, hears Me; and he who rejects you, rejects Me" (Luke 10, 16).

163. What is meant by the infallibility of the Catholic Church?

By the infallibility of the Catholic Church is meant that the Church, by the special assistance of the Holy Ghost, cannot err when it teaches or believes a doctrine of faith or morals.

Infallibility does not mean that the Pope cannot commit a sin, but that in teaching a doctrine of faith or morals, he is prevented by the Holy Ghost from making a mistake. The Church teaches only truth.

164. When does the Church teach infallibly?

The Church teaches infallibly when it defines, through the Pope alone, as the teacher of all Christians, or through the Pope and the bishops, a doctrine of faith or morals to be held by all the faithful.

165. What is meant by the indefectibility of the Catholic Church?

By the indefectibility of the Catholic Church is meant that the Church, as Christ founded it, will last until the end of time.

Nations will rise and fall. False religions will come and go. But the Church will last forever.