

**Mt. St. Michael
CATHOLIC DOCTRINE CLASS**

**“A Study of *Tumultuous Times* – Part II”
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***Part D – The Seven Sacraments and the new “Sacraments,”
Holy Orders, pp. 457-464***

A. Basic Sacramental theology

1. Four things absolutely needed for a valid Sacrament:
 - a. *Matter* the material needed
 - b. *Form* the correct, essential words of the Sacrament formula
 - c. *Intention* at the very least, that of “doing what Christ (or the Church) does”
 - d. *Minister* He must have the power to perform the Sacramental rite

B. Sacrament of Holy Orders

1. Four requirements, as applied to the Sacrament of Holy Orders
 - a. *Matter* Imposition of hands (more actions were required by the Church in the past, but since these additional items were established by Our Lord, the Church can change what she herself had previously demanded)
 - b. *Form* The essential words, as solemnly taught by Pope Pius XII, in *Sacramentum Ordinis* (November 30, 1947) are:
 - i. Diaconate: *Send forth upon them, we beseech Thee, O Lord, the Holy Ghost that they may be strengthened by Him, through the gift of Thy sevenfold grace, unto the faithful discharge Thy service*
 - ii. Priesthood: *We beseech Thee, Almighty Father, invest this Thy servant with the dignity of the Priesthood. Do Thou renew in his heart the spirit of holiness, so that he may persevere in this office, which is next to ours in dignity, since he has received it from Thee, O God. May the example of his life lead others to moral uprightness.*
 - iii. Episcopate: *Perfect in Thy priest the fullness of thy ministry and, clothing him in all the ornaments of spiritual glorification, sanctify him with the Heavenly Anointing.*
 - c. *Intention* “Doing as the Church does”
 - d. *Minister* Must be a validly-consecrated bishop; no one else can possibly administer this Sacrament

C. Notes

1. The ranks of the priesthood

- a. *Tonsure* Introduction to Clerical State

The Minor Orders

- b. *Ostiariate* ("Porter") Right & duty of keeping good order in the church, God's House
- c. *Lectorate* ("Lector") Right & duty of reading the Scriptures aloud in church, bless new crops and fruits
- d. *Exorcistate* ("Exorcist") Right to cast out demons from the possessed
- e. *Acolytate* ("Acolyte") Right & duty of serving at Holy Mass & the Liturgy

The Major Orders

- f. *Subdiaconate* ("Subdeacon") Right & duty to wear sacred vestments in the Liturgy and perform special functions, lifelong duty to pray the Divine Office Daily, lifelong vow of clerical celibacy
- g. *Diaconate* ("Deacon") Right to preach, baptize, distribute Holy Communion
- h. *Presbyterate* ("Priest") Right & duty to offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, forgive sins, administer Extreme Unction, give blessings, be a spiritual father

The Fullness of the Priesthood

- i. *Episcopate* ("Bishop") Right & duty to confirm, ordain, consecrate

2. It is controverted whether the 4 Minor Orders and the Subdiaconate are truly part of the Sacrament of Holy Orders

- a. A priest can be specially delegated to confer Tonsure, the Minor Orders, and Subdiaconate
- b. Like diaconate, priesthood, and episcopacy, the 4 Minor Orders and the Subdiaconate have their matter and form, too.

3. After approving the 1968 new rite of ordination, Paul VI abolished, in 1972, the ranks of Tonsure, Porter, Lector, Exorcist, Acolyte, and Subdiaconate. What a tragedy to minimize the serious preparation needed for the immeasurable dignity of the priestly state!

4. The most serious change, by far, that Paul VI made in 1968 was to SUBSTANTIALLY alter the form, i.e. essential words needed for the consecration of bishops. We will discuss this on April 10, at our next class.

- a. In a nutshell, the problem with the new rite of ordination is that of FORM, and, it could be argued, with the INTENTION as well.