

THE HOLY SACRAMENTS

Servant prep course 2008-2009

The Sacrament Of Priesthood

- ❖ The Holy Sacrament by which the Bishop lays his hand on the elected candidate in order for the Holy Spirit to descend on this person to grant him one of the priestly ranks.
- ❖ As a result, the ordained person is granted the authority to perform the ministry of the Church,
- ❖ This is called “Laying of hands” or “Ordination”.

Institution of the Sacrament:

- The Lord Jesus Christ instituted this Sacrament when He chose the twelve disciples and consecrated them for ministry
- “He called His disciples to Him, and from them He chose twelve whom He also named apostles” (Luke 6:13)

Institution of the Sacrament

- He gave them the authority of absolution and binding
- “He breathed on them, and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit’. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained” (John 20:22-23)

Institution of the Sacrament

- He gave them the authority To Make Disciples
- Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Mt 28:19)
- And only to them He delivered the mystery of His Body and Blood (The Eucharist).

Honor of Priesthood

- St. Paul said, “No man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron was” (Heb 5:4)
- Let the elders [priests] who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine” (1 Tim 5:17),

Priesthood is a divine choice, call and appointment

- And He went up on the mountain and called to Him those He Himself wanted and they came to Him. Then He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach and to have power to heal sicknesses and to cast out demons.” **(Mk 3:13-15)**
- Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. And when it was day, He called His disciples to Himself; and from them He chose twelve whom He also named apostles.” **(Lk 6:12-13)**
- You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should remain.” **(Jn 15:16)**
- “After these things the Lord appointed seventy others also, and sent them two by two before His face into every city and place where He Himself was about to go.” **(Lk 10:1)**

Priesthood is Faithfulness and Stewardship

- “Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his master will make ruler over his household, to give them their portion in due season? Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes.” **(Lk 12:42-43)**
- “Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries (Sacraments) of God. Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful” **(1 Cor 4:1-2)**

Priesthood is Consecration or Sanctification

- Lord Jesus Christ said, “for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth” (**Jn 17:19**).
- To sanctify means to consecrate; our Lord has consecrated Himself for the ministry and redemption.
- Likewise, all ranks of the Priesthood are consecrated for the ministry according to the example of Lord Jesus Christ, the Great High Priest.

- 1- The Order Of Deacons
- 2- The Order of Priests
- 3- The Order of Bishops

The Order Of Deacons

- 1- Epsaltos (Hymnist, Cantor)
- 2- Anaghanostos (Reader, Lector)
- 3- Epideacon (Sub-deacon- assistant deacon)
- 4- Deacon(Servant)
- 5- Archdeacon(Leader of Deacons)

1- Epsaltos (Hymnist, Cantor)

- Coptic psalmos = psalm or hymn
- **The work** : To learn and sing church hymns and praises
- Always Children ordained at this rank as the Psalm says, “Out of the mouth of babes and infants You have ordained strength” (**Ps 8:2**)
- **The Benefit of ordaining Children** the Psalm says, “But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God ... I will praise You forever” (**Ps 52:8-9**).

2- Anaghnostos (Reader)

- The Work:

A- Daily reading in church , He must read without mistake so the congregation may understand what is read.

B- Recite the names of the Patriarchs who passed a way in the [Lord](#).

C- Give sermons to the congregation as mentioned in the rite of their [ordination](#)

3- Epideacon (Sub-deacon)

- The Work :

A- His work is to prevent heretics and false teachers from entering the Church

B- To light the Church's lamps,

C- To maintain the books of the Church, to prepare the censer, to organize the worshipers

D-to help the deacon and replace him if necessary and

E- Every Thing else the reader does.

4- Deacon (Servant)

- **The Work:**

A- His work is to recite all the liturgical responses

B- He reads the Holy Gospel of the Liturgy and may teach or preach by the permission of the Bishop or priest

C- The deacon helps the priest in the service by visiting the congregation, widows and orphans, sick, etc.

If he was ordained before marriage, he does not marry.

If he had a wife and was ordained then his wife died, he remains without marriage like the case of Priests.

If he elects to marry, he loses his rank.

5- Archdeacon(Leader of Deacons)

- *The Work :*

The Archdeacon leads all the ranks of deacons, manages their needs, and specifies their deeds.

Qualifications of Deacons

- **St. Paul said,** *“Deacons must be reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money, holding the mystery of faith with a pure conscience. But let these also first be proved; then let them serve as deacons, being found blameless... Let deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well” (1 Tim 3:8-9,12).*
- **The twelve apostles** set the criteria of ordination of the seven deacons as being “of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom” (**Acts 6:3**).

The Order of Priests

- 1- Priest, Elder, Presbyter
- 2- Hegomen, Senior Priest, Archpriest
- 3- Khoori-Episcopos(Bishop of Village)

1- Priest, Elder, Presbyter

- This is the first and essential priestly rank.

- **The Work :**

A- The priest has the right to administer all the Church Sacraments except the laying of hands and ordination, which is reserved to the Bishop or someone above him.

B- He teaches the people the word of God, explains to them the dogmas and rites, and leads them to the way of righteousness.

C- He is a father who pastors his children compassionately, visits them with tenderness care and love,

D- He humbly serves them as Lord Jesus washed the feet of His disciples

2- Hegomen, Senior Priest, Archpriest

- This is only a promotional rank from a priest and is not considered as a new ordination.
- If there were more than one priest serving in the same Church, the oldest in ordination or the most active and knowledgeable is promoted to the rank of hegomen.
- The rest of the priests submit to him and consider him the primary responsible person in the Church.

3- Khoori-Episcopos(Bishop of Village)

- This rank came to existence by the end of the third century in Asia Minor when the dioceses extended and their division to smaller ones was not preferred.
- There was 15 of Khoori-Episcopos at the Council of Nicaea
- This rank disappeared from our Coptic Church and was revived by H.H Pope Shenouda III when His Holiness ordained several monks as Khoori-Episcopos in order to assist some Bishops and Metropolitans in the service of their wide dioceses.
- His Holiness promoted most of them later on to general Bishops or Bishops of Dioceses

3- Khoori-Episcopos(Bishop of Village)

A- A Monk.

B- Holds the title of “Anba”.

C- His turban is very similar to the Bishop’s.

D- Has the authority to ordain the various ranks of Deacons.

E- A member of the Holy Synod.

F- His name is mentioned like the Bishop in all liturgical prayers and hymns.

The Order of Bishops

- **Bishop, Overseer, Episcopos:**
- **Metropolitan (Bishop of a large city)**
- **Patriarch, Pope, Archbishop**

1. Bishop, Overseer, Episcopos:

- This is the highest rank of the Priesthood.
- Bishops are distinguished from Priests by having the perfection of the Priesthood and the authority to lay their hands and ordain all the deaconry and priestly ranks in their dioceses.

2- Metropolitan (Bishop of a large city)

- This is a promotional rank from the Bishop, and the Metropolitan is mentioned before the Bishop in all the Church rites.

3- Patriarch, Pope, Archbishop

- *The Patriarch is the highest rank in the Bishopric level and has the greatest ruling of Priesthood;*
- *He is the leader of the Church, Bishops and Metropolitans.*
- *The Patriarch is the successor of our fathers the Apostles*
- *He is the symbol of the unity of the Church.*
- *He has the right to ordain Bishops (at least one Bishop accompany him) and promote them to Metropolitans.*
- *He also has the right to make the Holy oil (Mayron).*
- *He heads the sessions of the Holy Synod, which is the highest authority in the Church.*

Qualification of Bishops:

- *A bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober minded, just, holy, self controlled, holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.” (Titus 1: 7-9)*

- ***“Lord show Your face to Your servant standing before You to know by Your Holy Words to preach Your laws to Your people, teach them Your pure words for their rescue and salvation”, this is done by the permission from the Bishop or Priest.***

- ***the deacon says, “Let those who read recite the names of our fathers the Patriarchs who have fallen asleep; O Lord repose their souls and forgive us our sins”.***