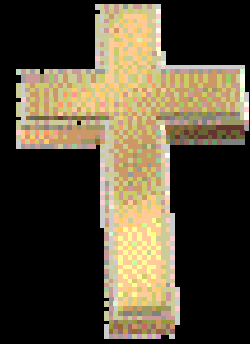


# Priesthood

“The Priesthood is performed on earth  
but it possesses the order of heavenly  
things.” St. John Chrysostom

# What do you know about priesthood?

- One of the 7 sacraments
- It is not required for salvation
- A church without priest, is no church
- It was established since the Old Testament
- Comes from the Hebrew word Cohen = to draw near. Or Presvetros = Greek = intercessor
- It is a mystery in which a man is chosen to administer the mysteries to the believers.
- Ordination is “setting apart” to serve God’s people.



# Priests are chosen by God

- In the Old Testament
  - God chose the tribe of Levi to administer and offer sacrifices to Him.
  - Exodus 28, Numbers 16 – specifics about clothes, ordination,...etc.
- In the New Testament
  - *“And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron was.” Heb 5:4*
  - *“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, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.” John 15:16*
  - *And when He had said this, 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*
  - *Luke 9:1-2, Luke 10:1*

# Responsibilities and authority of priests

- Preaching, making disciples, baptizing and to teach
  - Mark 16:15 -16, Matthew 28: 19-20
- Ambassadors
  - 2 Cor 5:18
- Shepherds
  - John 21:15-16, Acts 20:28
- Teachers/guides
  - 1 Cor 12: 28, Rom 12:7, Heb 13:7
- Rulers
  - 1 Tim 5:17



# Ranks of priesthood



# Sayings of the Fathers

- “ Do you know what the priest is? He is an angel of the Lord. Are they his own words that he speaks? If you despise him, you don't despise him, but God who ordained him. If God doesn't work through him, then there is no baptism, nor communion in the mysteries, nor blessings; you are no longer Christians...Reverence him because everyday he ministers to you, prays for you, and offers supplications for you...” St. John Chrysostom

# Sayings of the Fathers

- “ This is the essence of the priesthood in my mind: preaching and announcing the Good News...” St. John Chrysostom
- “The Priesthood is performed on earth but it possesses the order of heavenly things.” St. John Chrysostom

# Summary

- Priests are chosen by God
- They are honored by God *“If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.” John 12:26*
- We are to honor them and trust the Holy Spirit in them, guiding them.



5/2/2009

Priesthood

9

# References

- [http://www.stmaryseattle.com/curriculum\\_sun\\_day.school/Grade10.pdf](http://www.stmaryseattle.com/curriculum_sun_day.school/Grade10.pdf)
- [http://www.saintminaholmdel.org/servants/\[Lecture%2052\]%20The%20Sacrament%20Of%20The%20Priesthood.ppt#256,1,The Sacrament of the Holy Priesthood](http://www.saintminaholmdel.org/servants/[Lecture%2052]%20The%20Sacrament%20Of%20The%20Priesthood.ppt#256,1,The%20Sacrament%20of%20the%20Holy%20Priesthood)
- <http://www.suscopts.org/q&a/index.php?qid=443&catid=302>