

# Holy Orders Is a Sacrament of Service

Keep these ideas in mind as you study *Chapter 19*.

✦ Bishops, priests, and deacons make up the ordained priesthood. All baptized Catholics share in the common priesthood.

PAGE 157

✦ Men are ordained through the Sacrament of Holy Orders to act in the person of Christ. The rite of the sacrament is called ordination.

PAGE 157

✦ A stole is a sign of the priesthood. Deacons wear stoles, but only on their left shoulders. During the Sacrament of Holy Orders, when a deacon is ordained as a priest, the stole is put around his neck. Priests and bishops wear their stoles around their necks. A chasuble is another vestment of the priesthood. It is worn over the other vestments at Mass.

PAGES 158, 160

✦ During ordination, the bishop anoints the palms of the men with chrism. This is because Jesus used his hands for God's work, and the priest will do the same.

PAGE 158

✦ Priests serve the Church and their communities in many ways. Celebrating the Eucharist is their greatest privilege.

PAGE 159

✦ Some priests do not serve one parish. They might belong to religious orders, such as the Jesuits, or serve in other ways, as missionaries or chaplains, for example.

PAGE 159

✦ Deacons are ordained to help priests and bishops. Deacons may be married or unmarried, but they must be at least 35 years old.

PAGE 160

✦ A man serves as a deacon before he is ordained as a priest. Not all deacons intend to become priests, though.

PAGE 160

✦ Deacons assist priests and bishops in many different ways. Some ways that deacons can help include presiding at Baptisms, distributing Holy Communion, and preaching a Homily. Deacons can assist with the Eucharistic celebration, but they do not preside.

PAGE 160

✦ The bishops are the chief shepherds of the Church. A bishop carries a crosier, which looks like the staff of a shepherd. He also wears a pointed hat called a miter.

PAGE 160

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