



Pastor's Page



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On January 11th, 2021, Pope Francis issued a “motu proprio”—an act of legislation undertaken on his own authority and initiative as the Roman Pontiff. This motu proprio, entitled ***Spiritus Domini*** (*The Spirit of the Lord*), changed Canon Law to allow both men and women to be formally installed or “admitted on a stable basis through the proscribed liturgical rite to the ministries of lector and acolyte”.

Lector and acolyte are two of the minor orders that until now have been reserved only to men (males) who were undergoing preparation for the Sacrament of Holy Orders as priests or permanent deacons. The Holy Father’s initiative now permits qualified and worthy laity, both men and women, to undergo formation and training to be installed into these two minor orders. Lectors and acolytes are more than simply readers, altar servers, sacristans or Eucharistic ministers, even though they perform many of the duties that pertain to these other roles.

The Pope’s motu proprio has granted permission for this change to begin to be enacted, but it will still take a while for each of the Bishops’ conferences, and the dioceses in the countries they serve, to prepare for this change. Ritual books and the language they use will have to be amended, programs for training and formation will need to be designed and developed, and standards for discerning qualifications and vocation will have to be worked out. I ask you all to please pray that matters pertaining to this new development will proceed in a timely and effective manner, for the glory of God and for the good of God’s people.

Grace and peace,

Fr. Kevin