

Tuesday, 7th Week of Easter (May 18, 2021)

Thirtieth Anniversary of Priestly Ordination

Once upon a time, a young Jewish couple were preparing for their son's 12th birthday. According to tradition, it was now the time to decide what their son was to be "when he grew up."

They placed a table in the middle of the living room, and on this table, they placed a copy of the Torah, a \$100 bill, and a bottle wine. If the child picked up the Torah, praise God, he would become a Rabbi. If the child picked up the bottle of wine, heaven forbid, he would become a "good for nothing." And if the child picked up the \$100 bill, well then, he would become a wealthy banker.

Finally, little Moses was called into the room, and told to choose. Little Moses, looked over the objects on the table and picked up the Torah and put it under is left arm, then he picked up the wine bottle and put it under is right arm, and finally he bent down and picked up the \$100 with his teeth. Immediately, little Moses' mother screamed, "O good Lord, he's going to be a Catholic Priest!"

Well, thirty years ago today, I was ordained a Catholic priest. Thirty years of doing, any one thing these days is quite a miracle. I mean Cal Ripken, who hold the records for playing in 2,632 consecutive baseball games took only 21 years to do it. If he wants to compare records, I am guessing I have celebrated Holy Mass over 10,000 times.

On the day of my priestly ordination, Bishop Pierre DuMaine, speaking on behalf of the Church as me three questions.

- Are you resolved, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to discharge without fail the office of the priesthood?
- Are you resolved to celebrate the mysteries of Christ for the glory of God and the sanctification of the Christ's people?
- Are you resolved to exercise the ministry of the Word, preaching the Gospel and explaining the Catholic faith.

The Good Lord knows, I have my good days and my bad days—however, He has strengthened my resolve with his abundant grace, and I remain thankful for my priesthood and for the supreme privilege of serving God’s people.

I only ask of Him, each night before going to sleep, “*give me just one more day.*”