

# Grade 7 - Lesson 20

St. Michael the Archangel Parish

## Proclamation:

*Holy Orders is the Sacrament by which men become ordained ministers.*



## Catechetical Points

- The Sacrament of Holy Orders ordains men to the priesthood.

## Materials

- Vocations Cards
- Pope Poster
- YouTube (Please bring your own laptop or tablet)
  - Wi-Fi: StMichaelGuest
  - Password: 6084375348
  - What is a Catholic Priest
    - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RQcx2ZwO01U>
  - What Are the Degrees of the Sacrament of Holy Orders
    - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aq315ppTiOY>
  - What is the Structure of the Church
    - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cHEzyxxlktY>

### [15 min] **Silent Prayer**

- Bring the class into church for a few minutes of silent prayer.
- At the beginning of prayer in Church, lead the class in the **Divine Praises**. They should repeat each line after you:
  - Blessed be God.  
Blessed be his Holy Name.  
Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true Man.  
Blessed be the Name of Jesus.  
Blessed be his most Sacred Heart.  
Blessed be his most Precious Blood.  
Blessed be Jesus in the most Holy Sacrament of the Altar.  
Blessed be the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete.  
Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary most holy.  
Blessed be her holy and Immaculate Conception.  
Blessed be her glorious Assumption.  
Blessed be the name of Mary, Virgin and Mother.  
Blessed be St. Joseph, her most chaste spouse.  
Blessed be God in his angels and in his saints.

### [20 min] **The Role of a Priest**

- **What is the role of a priest? Why is his job so important?**
- Watch **What is a Catholic Priest** by Donjojohannes
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RQcx2ZwO01U>
- Read **Jesus Gives Us the Sacrament of Holy Orders** on page 144 (page 255 in the Teacher's Manual). It might be helpful to draw the Chalk Talk chart on page 249 in the Teacher's Manual.
- **What are the primary duties of a priest?** Celebrate Mass and other Sacraments, pray the Liturgy of the Office every day.

- **What are the vows a priest makes?** Celibacy (choosing not to marry), and obedience to the bishop.
- **What is apostolic succession?** The unbroken chain of bishops from the apostles to the present day. Think of it as a spiritual “family tree”.
- **Why can’t a priest get married?** Priests represent Christ, who was never married, and not having a family of their own allows priests to focus entirely on the community of the Church, which is Christ’s “bride”.
- **Why can’t women be priests?** Jesus established the priesthood through the 12 Apostles, who were all men. A priest acts *In persona Christi* to represent Christ when administering the Sacraments, and the priest is a spiritual father to the community. Just as only a man can be a father, and only a woman can be a mother: only a man can fulfill the role of spiritual fatherhood necessary for the priesthood. The Church teaches that men and women are equal, but have different gifts that they bring when serving in the Church’s needs. There are other roles for women in the Church, including religious life. See the sidebar note on page 251 in the Teacher’s Manual.
- **Why do you think someone would want to become a priest?**
- **Why is it so important to show respect for priests?** When we encounter priests in the Sacraments, we are encountering Christ.

[15 min] **The Degrees of Holy Orders**

- **Who is our parish priest? Who is our bishop? How are the roles of these 2 priests different?**
- Watch **What Are the Degrees of the Sacrament of Holy Orders** by Donjojohannes
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aq315ppTiOY>
- Read **The Levels of Holy Orders** on page 145.
- **What are the different responsibilities for each type of minister in the Church?** See the notes on page 252 in the Teacher’s Manual.

[10 min] **The Structure of the Church**

- **We have seen how there are different levels of priesthood, so where does the Pope fit into the Church's hierarchy?**
- Watch **What is the Structure of the Church** by Donjojohannes
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cHEzyxxlktY>

[10 min] **The Papacy**

- Show the **Poster of the the Popes**. This poster shows the unbroken succession of all the popes throughout the Church's history. There have been 266 popes since Jesus founded the Church.
- **Who was the first pope?**
- **When was the Catholic Church founded?**
- **Who is our pope now?**
- **Do you recognize any of the other popes on the poster?** (JP II, Benedict, etc.)

[5 min] **Closing Prayer**

- Pass out cards with pictures of Seminarians and Religious Sisters in the Diocese of Madison.
- Explain how these are people who feel that they have been called to commit their lives entirely to God through a religious vocation.
- Spend a few minutes discussing and answering questions, and let the students bring their cards home so that they can pray for those in their vocational formation.
- Pray the **Prayer for Vocations** (p. 178 in the student text / p. 318 in the teacher's manual.)