

Informational Article on the Sacrament of Holy Orders

The Sacrament of Holy Orders (which includes the priesthood and diaconate), like the remaining other 6 sacraments, is grounded in the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ—especially in his call to discipleship. Fully understanding the Old Testament notion of priesthood, Jesus was the fulfillment of the priesthood in the New Testament and an example to his apostles and disciples.

The Sacrament of Holy Orders is an example of a uniquely Christian ministry. Bishops, priests, and deacons serve within the Catholic Church and are designated by the Church, to act in the name of the Church and for the sake of helping the Church fulfill its myriad of activities related to his mission (e.g., catechesis, religious education, etc).

The decision to enter into Holy Orders should be carefully discerned and discussed with a spiritual director, parish priest, and the diocese's vocation director. If you believe that you have been personally called by God to ordained ministry in the Catholic Church, please contact and speak with your parish priest. The priest will be able to direct you in the appropriate direction to help develop your vocational call.

For more information on the Sacrament of Holy Orders, please refer to Diocese of Colorado Springs website (www.diocs.org) and/or the Catechism of the Catholic Church 1534-1600.