

Dear beloved children, ye who are about to be promoted to the Levitical Order, consider well to how great a step in the Church you are rising. For it becometh the Deacon to minister at the Altar, to baptize, and to preach. Of a truth in the old law, out of the twelve tribes one was chosen, which should serve the tabernacle of God with special devotion, and His sacrifices with a perpetual rite. And so great a dignity was granted to it, that no one except from its race could rise to administer the divine worship and office; so that by some great privilege of inheritance, it deserved both to be, and to be called, the Tribe of the Lord: of whom, dearly beloved children, at this day you hold both the name and office; because you are chosen in the Levitical office for the ministry of the tabernacle of the testimony, that is the Church of God, which always placed in conflict fights, with an unceasing strife against her enemies, whence saith the Apostle, our wrestling is not against flesh and blood: but against principalities and powers, against the rulers of the world of this darkness, against the spirit of wickedness in the high places. Which Church of God ye ought, as the tabernacle, to carry and fortify with holy ornament, divine preaching, perfect example. Forsooth Levi is interpreted, added, or assumed. And be ye, dearly beloved children, who receive a paternal inheritance, assumed from carnal desires, from earthly lusts which war against the soul, be seemly, undefiled, pure, chaste, as becometh ministers of Christ, and dispensers of the mysteries of God, that worthily you may be added to the Ecclesiastical degree, that you may serve to be the heritage and beloved Tribe of the Lord. And because you are co-assistants and co-operators of the Body and Blood of the Lord, be estranged from every allurement of the flesh, as saith the scripture. Be ye cleaned who bear the vessels of the Lord. Think on the blessed Stephen, elected for that office by the Apostles through desert of his particular chastity. Take care, that to whom you rehearse the gospel with your lips, by your deeds you may expound it, that of you it may be said: Blessed are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, of those who bring glad tidings of good things. Have your feet shod with the examples of Saints, in the preparation of the gospel of peace: which may the Lord grant you through His grace. R. Amen.

Afterwards, if no Subdeacons have been ordained, all those to be ordained prostrate themselves where they were kneeling, and the Bishop kneeling before his faldstool the Litany is said, and those to be ordained are blessed by the Bishop, as above in the ordination of the Subdeacons. After this, those to be ordained rising from where they have been lying down, yet still retaining on their knees, the Bishop sitting on the faldstool with his mitre, addresses the clergy and people in an audible voice, saying,

Let a common prayer follow up the common desire, that they who are prepared for the ministry of the Diaconate, may through the prayer of the whole Church shine brightly by the order of the Levitical benediction, and surpassing others in their spirit-

ual deportment, may beam forth with the grace of sanctification: Through the favour of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who with the Father and the Holy Ghost, liveth and reigneth, God, world without end.

Then the Bishop rising with his mitre, and standing towards those to be ordained, says, reading with a loud voice.

Let us pray, dearly beloved brethren. God the Father Almighty that He will graciously pour forth the grace of His blessing on these His servants, whom He has been pleased to call to the office of the Diaconate, that He will favourably preserve in them the gifts of the Consecration with which He will favour them, and that he will with clemency hear our prayers, that what things are to be performed by our ministry, He may benignly forward with His aid; and those, whom of our knowledge we may deem fit to be offered for the performance of the divine mysteries, He may, with His blessing, sanctify and confirm. Through His only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, Who with Him and the Holy Spirit, liveth and reigneth God.

Then having laid aside his mitre, with his hands extended before his breast, he says,

World without end.

R. Amen.

V. The Lord be with you.

R. And with Thy spirit.

V. Lift up your hearts.

R. We have lifted them up to the Lord.

V. Let us give thanks to our Lord God.

R. It is meet and just.

It is truly meet and right, just and salutary, that we should at all times and in all places, give thanks unto Thee, Holy Father, Almighty, everlasting God, and Giver of honours, the Dispenser of orders and the Disposer of offices; Who, dwelling in Thyself, renewest and disposest all things by Thy Word, power, and wisdom Jesus Christ Thy Son our Lord; and by Thy eternal providence, preparest and dispensest all things we wish for and the times require. Whose Body, namely Thy Church, distinct in the variety of her heavenly gifts, yet by the wonderful law of the whole building, connected and united in the distinction of her members, Thou grantest to grow and be enlarged for the increase of Thy Temple; as the service of the holy office, constituting a soldiery for Thy Name of three grades of ministers; like as the sons of Levi who were chosen from the beginning, and who enduring through faithful watchings in the mystical operations of Thy House, did obtain by a perpetual lot the inheritance of Thy eternal benediction.— Upon these Thy servants also, we beseech Thee, O Lord, look kindly, whom we suppliantly dedicate for the office of the Diaconate, as about to serve at Thy Altars. And, indeed, as far as men lack-

[To be continued]