

Sermon Preached
BY THE
BISHOP OF QUEBEC.
AT HIS
Ordination of Priests
IN
QUEBEC CATHEDRAL,
ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH, 1898.

S. Luke XVII-17. Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine?

If you will look at the first Rubric in the Service for the Ordination of Priests, you will see that it is ordered that, immediately before this Service is entered upon, there "shall be a Sermon or Exhortation declaring the Duty and Office of such, as come to be admitted Priests; and how necessary that Order is in the Church of Christ, and also how the people ought to esteem them in their Office."

Now, the first part of this subject, *i. e.*, the Duty and Office of those who are ordained to the Priesthood will be most amply set forth in the solemn Service, in which we are about to engage, for you will hear that such persons must be apt and meet as regards their learning and their life, that they are called to be Messengers, Watchmen and Stewards of the Lord, that they are to teach and administer, to feed and provide for the Lord's Family, that they are to seek for Christ's Sheep, that are scattered abroad, and for Christ's Children, who are in the midst of this naughty world, in order that they may be saved through Christ for ever. And you will also hear, that they ought consequently to be thankful to God for placing them in so high a dignity, that they ought to be careful to study the Sacred Scriptures and to frame their lives in accordance with these Scriptures, and that they ought, above all, to pray earnestly for the Holy Spirit.

And if you would see, secondly, how necessary this Order of the Priesthood is in the Church of Christ, you have only

to look at the Preface of our Ordinal, written at the time of the Reformation, and coming, it is believed, from the pen of Archbishop Crammer. For there you will read that "it is evident unto all men reading the Holy Scriptures and ancient Authors, that from the Apostles' time there have been these Orders of Ministers in Christ's Church: Bishops, Priests and Deacons." And you will read that "no man might presume to execute any of these Offices until he was first called, tried, examined and known to have such qualities as are requisite for the same, and until, with Public Prayer and the Laying on of Hands, he had been approved and admitted by lawful authority." And further you will read that "it was the intention of our Reformers to continue these Orders, and thus consequently no one can be accounted to be a true Priest of God, unless he has received Episcopal Ordination." It is on this account that all our Clergy are ordained by Bishops, who have themselves been consecrated by those who were Bishops before them, and so on backwards to the Hands of the Apostles and to the Hands of our Blessed Lord Himself.

And if it be asked, what is thus given to a Priest to do, which no one who has not been thus admitted to the Priesthood, not even a Deacon, may do, I answer that this is not a question of praying or preaching, for a Deacon may do all this, and yet go back to secular employment. But to those who take the irrevocable step, and are duly ordained to the Priesthood, to these there is given, (1) to pronounce absolution or remission of sins—an absolution which is effectual to all who come with true repentance and faith; (2) to bless, *i. e.*, call down with special authority the blessing of God upon His people, and (3) to celebrate the Holy Communion of the Body and Blood of Christ. Yes! in this Holy Service, ordained by Christ