

twelve Apostles, that is to say, of the Catholic Bishops who are prefigured in Moses and the Apostles. By this wonderful variety is Holy Church encompassed, adorned and governed, wherein men of different degrees are consecrated, some Bishops, and others of a lower degree, Priests, Deacons, and Subdeacons; so that out of many members and varying dignities One Body of Christ is composed. Wherefore, dearly beloved children, whom the judgment of our brethren hath chosen to be consecrated as our assistants, do ye preserve in your conduct the integrity of a chaste and holy life.— Bear in mind what you do; be conformed in your lives to your ministry; and as you celebrate the mystery of the Lord's death, take heed that ye mortify your memoers from all vices and lusts.— Let your teaching be a spiritual medicine to the people of God; let the odour of your life be a delight to the Church of Christ, that by your preaching and example you may build up the house, that is the family of God: so that neither we may deserve to be condemned of God for promoting you to so high an office, nor you for receiving it, but rather be rewarded. And may He grant this to us by His Grace. R. Amen.

Here, if no Subdeacons or Deacons have been ordained, follows the Litany, as in the ordination of Subdeacons. Then all rise, and those who are to be ordained kneel, two by two, successively before the Bishop, who standing before the faldstool with his mitre on, silently lay both his hands upon the head of each of these to be ordained. The same is done by all the Priests who are present, of whom three or more should, if possible, be habited in Chasubles, or at least have their Stoles upon him.

Then the Bishops and the Priests hold their right hands extended over them. And the Bishop, standing with his mitre, says,

Dearly beloved Brethren, let us pray God, the Father Almighty, that He would multiply His Heavenly gifts upon these His servants, whom He has chosen for the charge of the Priesthood; and that they may persevere by His help in the office which they receive through His mercy; through Christ our Lord. R. Amen.

The Bishop having put down his mitre, turns to the Altar, and says,

Let us pray.

Assistants,

Let us bend the knee.

R. Arise.

Then turning towards those who are to be ordained, he says, Hear us, we beseech Thee, O Lord, our God, and shed upon these Thy servants the blessing of Thy Holy Spirit, and the virtue of the Priestly grace, that Thou wouldst be pleased to accompany with Thy constant favour those whom we present before the eyes of Thy mercy to be consecrated; Through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee, in the unity of the same Holy Spirit, God.

Then 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 the Lord our God.

R. It is meet and just.

It is truly meet and right, just and salutary, that we should always and in all places give thanks to Thee, O Holy Lord, Father Almighty, eternal God. Author of honours, and Giver of all dignities, through Whom all things grow up and are strengthened, and the improvement of the rational nature ever maketh progress for the better, according to a suitably disposed order. Whence the priestly degrees and offices of the Levites have been instituted in mystical sacraments, that as Thou hadst set Bishops as supreme rulers over Thy people, so Thou didst choose as their companions and assistants men of an inferior degree and dignity. So in the desert Thou didst extend the spirit of Moses through the minds of seventy wise men, by means of whom he did easily govern countless multitudes. So, also, didst Thou transfuse into Eleazar and Ithamar, the sons of Aaron, the fullness of their father's grace, that there might be a sufficient ministry of priests for the salutary Sacrifices and Sacraments of more frequent ministering. By this Providence didst Thou, O Lord, add to the Apostles of Thy Son new teachers of the Faith, by means of whom they filled the whole world with their preaching. Wherefore, do Thou, we beseech Thee, O Lord, grant this assistance to our weakness, who need the more in proportion to our frailty. Grant, we beseech Thee, Almighty Father, the dignity of the Priesthood to these Thy servants, and renew within them the spirit of holiness; that they may obtain from Thee, O God, the second rank in Thy ministry, and by the example of their conversation may afford a pattern of holy living. May they be careful helpers of our order, and may the beauty of righteousness shine forth in them that they may hereafter give a good account of their stewardship, and enjoy the reward of eternal felicity.

Without chaunt but in a voice audible to the bystanders,

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the same Holy Spirit, God, world without end. R. Amen.

The Bishop here sits, and puts the Stole on each of those who are to be ordained, saying,

Receive the yoke of the Lord, for His yoke is easy and His burden is light.

And on giving the Chasuble,

Receive the Priestly vestment, by which charity is signified; for God is able to increase in thee charity and a perfect work.

R. Thanks be to God.