

The Sacrament of Holy Orders is celebrated in three steps: the deacon, the priest, and the bishop.



D _____

P _____

B _____

A **deacon** is a man called “the servant of all.” This man is to be a helper to the priests and bishops as well as a servant to the Church.

Some ways he can help are by proclaiming the Gospel and preaching, giving out Communion, blessing marriages, and being in charge of funerals. Some men choose to be deacons all their lives.

This is called the permanent diaconate. Men who are permanent deacons can be married before they become a deacon.

Some men only become a deacon while they continue in their vocation to become a priest.



A **priest** is a co-worker with a bishop. Because he believes that God has called him to live his life totally for God, he freely chooses never to get married. His family will be the Church of God. The Sacrament of Holy Orders passes on to priests the ability to bring spiritual life to other people through the sacraments.



In addition to first being a priest, **bishops** are called to be the successors of the apostles. That means that they have received the full graces of Holy Orders. Their job is to keep and teach the faith the way that Jesus and the first apostles taught it. Each bishop is responsible for his own area, called a diocese. Because of their special position, they are the only ones who can pass on the Sacrament of Holy Orders to new deacons, priests, and bishops.

Three special signs of the office of bishop are the hat he wears, called a miter; a staff he carries, called a crosier; and a ring.

