

Immaculate Heart Seminary

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March 2023

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

We began March with a glorious event—the ceremony of ordination to the diaconate. The ordination was held on Ember Saturday, March 4, at Immaculate Heart Seminary. Rev. Mr. Joseph Harber and Rev. Mr. Alexander Peters were ordained deacons and were thus stamped with the indelible mark of the Sacrament of Holy Orders.

As we know from our catechism, Holy Orders is a sacrament. Although it is only one sacrament, there are three distinct grades: the diaconate, the priesthood, and the episcopacy. The order of deacon is the lowest of the grades, but it is nonetheless a true sacrament. By his



Bishop Carroll with Rev. Mr. Joseph Harber and Rev. Mr. Alexander Peters

ordination a deacon is empowered to preach, to baptize solemnly, and even to administer Holy Communion in extraordinary circumstances. The diaconate is the last step before ordination to the holy priesthood. God willing, our new deacons will be ordained on August 30. Please keep them and all the seminarians and brothers in your prayers.



The Essential Matter of the Sacrament: the Laying on of One Hand



Receiving the Dalmatic, the Vestment of the Deacon