



*Bishop Carroll and Rev. Mr. Butler*

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

On December 28, the Feast of the Holy Innocents, one of the seminarians was ordained to the major order of subdeacon. It was indeed a momentous day for us. In a matter of months, we will have another priest to labor for souls. God willing, Rev. Mr. Michael Butler will be ordained a deacon on February 24 and a priest on August 27.

The path to the holy priesthood consists of eight steps. The first of those steps is called tonsure. Tonsure is not an order but a sacred rite by which a layman becomes a member of the clergy. Then, there are the four minor orders: porter, lector, exorcist, and acolyte. Men were ordained to the minor orders in early times to perform certain duties in the Church. Today, these lesser orders are conferred to prepare clerics for the priesthood.

The three major orders are subdeacon, deacon, and priest. Subdiaconate is the first degree of major orders.



*Prostration During the Litany of the Saints*



*Receiving the Tunic, the Vestment of Subdeacons*