

The subdeacon prepares the hosts, wine, and sacred vessels for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. He is permitted to chant the Epistle and to wash the sacred linens which have been used at the altar. A subdeacon is bound to perpetual celibacy and to the daily recitation of the Divine Office.

The second major order is that of deacon. Because this order is a sacrament, it imprints an indelible mark on the soul of the cleric who receives it. The word *deacon* means “minister” or “servant.” Thus, he assists the priest during Holy Mass. He is empowered to chant the Gospel, preach, and expose the Blessed



The Steps to the Priesthood



*Reading the Epistle with the Bishop
at the Ordination Ceremony*

Sacrament during Benediction. With special permission, the deacon may also administer solemn Baptism and Holy Communion.

The last of the major orders is the summit of all a seminarian’s priestly studies; it is the order of priesthood. A priest has the power to offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, during which he consecrates the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Our Lord. He has the power to absolve sins in the Sacrament of Penance and to administer Baptism and Extreme Unction. Priests may also bless persons and objects and are most necessary in the work of saving our souls.

Please continue praying for vocations. We have several young men coming to visit the seminary at the end of February to discern whether or not they have a vocation. Pray that the Holy Ghost will inspire them with the light to know God’s will and the strength to follow it, and please keep all the priests, seminarians, and brothers in your prayers as they strive each day to comfort the Sacred Heart and to help save the souls Our Lord died to redeem.

In the Sacred Heart,

+ James Carroll, C.S.B.V

The Most Reverend James Carroll, C.S.P.V