

SACRAMENTS OF HOLY ORDERS  
and ANOINTING OF THE SICK

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Leviticus 9: 22-24 (OT 120)

Priestly role is a part of every culture and religion. In the Genesis story of Cain and Abel (OT 15), they made an offering to God.

In Genesis 22 (OT 34), Abraham acts as priest when he is challenged to offer his son, Isaac, to God.

Exodus 28 (OT 98) Moses' brother, Aaron, is designated high priest for the Hebrews after their escape from Egypt.

Jacob's third son, Levi, and all his male descendants were designated to act as priests for the Hebrew family tribe. (Numbers 1:47; OT 145 and Numbers 18; OT 164).

Zechariah 6: 11-13 (OT 1122) High priest designation.

Exodus 29:1 (OT 99) Consecrated priests as helpers, assistants.

Exodus 19:6 (OT 89) Priesthood of all believers.

NEW TESTAMENT

Hebrew 3:1-4 (NT 332) Jesus is High Priest.

Matthew 10 (NT 29) Apostles given authority in ministerial priesthood to act on behalf of Jesus.

Bishops in the Catholic hierarchy are successors to the Apostles of the New Testament. They are anointed on the head with holy chrism oil.

Priests of dioceses (ordained for a particular geographical area) and priests of religious orders (ordained for a particular purpose) act as consecrated priests that help and pledge obedience to the bishops. They are anointed on the hands with holy chrism oil.

Deacons help priests. They can perform sacraments of marriage and baptism only. Permanent deacons can be married at time of ordination. Transitional deacons are single men in formation for the priesthood.

SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK can be done only by a priest as it involves forgiveness of sins, a grace designated to priests. Those who are ill, preparing for surgery, suffering from chronic physical or emotional illness, etc. can be anointed. Since Vatican II council in first half of 1960's, not limited to time of death (formerly called "last rites").

#### QUESTIONS

Why are women not allowed to be priests?

Infallibility of pope.

#### HIERARCHY OF CATHOLIC CHURCH

Pope is bishop of Rome, successor of Apostle Peter.

Cardinals - honorary title of age and merit.

Archbishop and bishops - successors of the Apostles. Archbishops have authority over larger number of Catholic people. For example, Archbishop Paul Coakley has authority over diocese (geographic area) of OKC, Tulsa, and Little Rock AR.

Priest - Ordained by a bishop as an assistant or helper.

Diocesan - ordained for particular place.

Religious order - ordained for a particular purpose.

Deacon - Ordained by a bishop as an assistant for the priests.