

Holy Orders and Matrimony

Unit 5 Chapter 18

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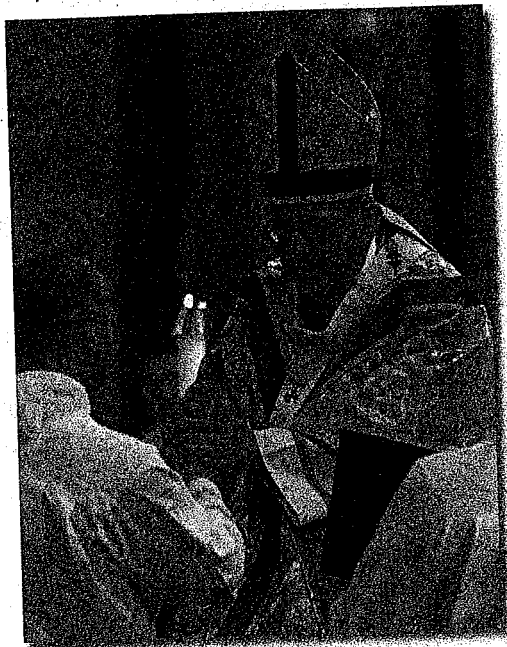
Background: Holy Orders and Matrimony

The Church celebrates two Sacraments in which the participants commit themselves to serving others. These Sacraments are Matrimony and Holy Orders. Husbands and wives in the Sacrament of Matrimony and deacons, priests, and bishops in the Sacrament of Holy Orders receive special graces to serve the whole Church. These Sacraments are called the Sacraments at the Service of Communion and are directed toward the salvation of others.

Through their commitment to serving others, those who celebrate these two Sacraments build up the People of God. They bring God's peace and justice and God's mercy and compassion to others. They commit themselves to living out their vocations to spread the Good News of God's love.

Getting Ready

1. Read the Take Home pages 203 and 204 of your child's book. Gather the family at a convenient time early in the week to participate in the Activity on page 203.
2. With your child, read about Saint Philip Neri, the Saint of the Week: Learn more about him at SaintsResource.com.
3. Read and discuss Jesus Institutes the Priesthood at the top of page 204. Talk about ways you see your parish priest fulfilling his vocation to preach the Gospel.
4. Read *Our Catholic Tradition*. Search the Internet for more information on the life and writings of G.K. Chesterton. Talk about any other books you have read or movies you have seen that feature priests or married people serving others.



Focus

Matrimony and Holy Orders are the Sacraments at the Service of Communion.

The Church Teaches

Two other sacraments, Holy Orders and Matrimony, are directed toward the salvation of others; if they contribute as well to personal salvation, it is through service to others that they do so. They confer a particular mission in the Church and serve to build up the People of God.

Catechism of the Catholic Church 1533

Prayer

Loving God, you call your children to serve others and to serve the Church in many ways. Today I pray for the bishops, priests, deacons, and married persons who have committed themselves to serving your Church through the Sacraments of Holy Orders and Matrimony. May they be strengthened in their vocations and so lead others to know and to love you. Amen.

Exploring the Chapter

Share

1. Light the candle. Read the liturgical text at the top of page 205 and discuss its meaning.
2. Read aloud the Share section on page 205. Discuss some short-term commitments and promises that you have recently made.
3. Invite your child to complete the Activity and discuss his or her responses.

Hear and Believe

4. Look at the photograph on page 206. Explain that it shows the bishop laying hands on the head of a man he is about to ordain as a priest. Read aloud Holy Orders. Review the meaning of the Faith Word **Sacrament of Holy Orders**. Also review the distinctions between the ministries of bishop, priest, and deacon.
5. Read aloud The Sacrament of Matrimony on page 207. Review the Faith Word **Sacrament of Matrimony**. Invite your child to name ways he or she has seen married couples love and serve others.
6. Read aloud and discuss Our Church Teaches and the We Believe statement. Review the Faith Word **Sacraments at the Service of Communion**. Talk about the ways members of your family serve God and the Church.

Respond

7. Look at and discuss the illustration on page 208. Explain that the man dressed in the red robe is Saint Philip Neri. Read aloud Saint Philip Neri Serves God. Invite your child to share what he or she thinks about Saint Philip Neri's favorite books. Ask your child to share his or her favorite parts of the story about Saint Philip Neri and to name ways Saint Philip Neri fulfilled his vocation.
8. Give your child time to complete Activity 1 and Activity 2 on page 209. Discuss his or her responses.
9. Work together to complete Activity 3. Discuss your reasons for each rating.
10. Pray together A Vocation Prayer on page 210. Begin by taking a moment or two of quiet to think about the vocations to which God has called/is calling you and your child. You may wish to conclude by singing the Unit Song on page 192.
11. Have your child complete the Chapter Review. See page 48 of this guide for the answer key.
12. Work with your child to complete Faith in Action on page 212. It highlights the Catholic Social Teaching of **Call to Family, Community, and Participation**.

We really liked . . .

We want to learn more about . . .