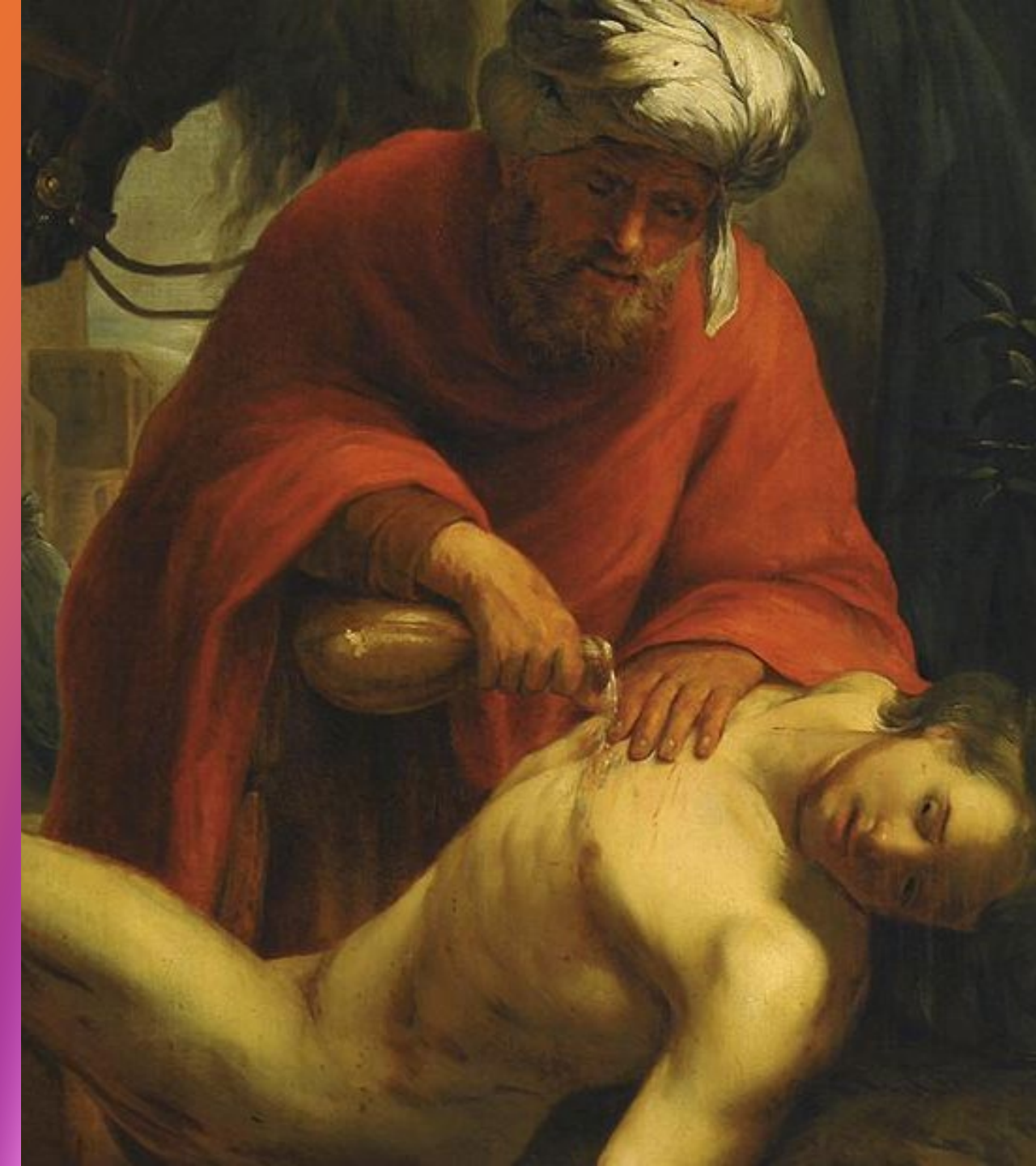


OCIA – Holy Orders & Ecclesiology

The Service of the People of God





Background

- “The Incarnation is the center of all God’s plans for mankind.”
 - The Incarnation of Jesus has been prolonged from that day until the last day through the sacramental economy that he instituted.
 - Mt. 28:20 - “I am with you always, until the end of the age.”



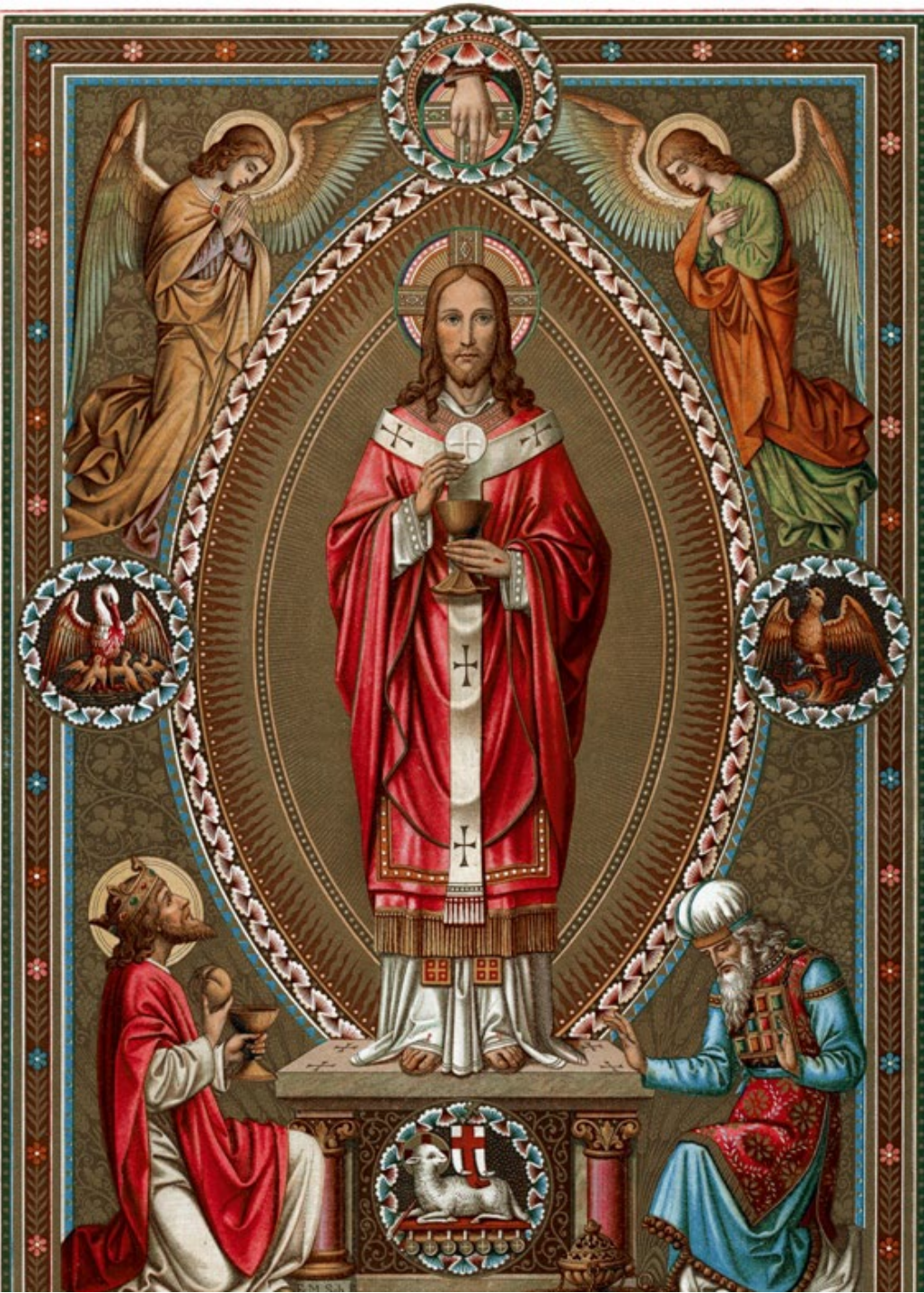
Sacramental Economy

- The Sacraments are the principal means of encounter between Jesus and every man and woman who is incorporated into the Mystical Body of Christ, the Church.
- Form & Matter: God communicates his invisible grace to us by means of visible rites and audible prayers.
 - Ex.) Taking bread and wine, a priest prays the words of consecration in the Eucharistic prayer, and the bread and wine are transubstantiated into the Body and Blood of the Lord.
- “Do this in memory of me.”
 - “Jesus instituted the Mass in order to allow us to participate in his sacrificial death on the cross and receive the graces of salvation.”

Who is the priest?

- A priest is someone who offers sacrifices to God and bestows the blessings of God onto his people. He is a mediator.
 - Jesus is the High Priest, the source of the priesthood.
- To reconcile mankind to God the Father through the sacrifice of the cross.
 - We are baptized into the paschal mysteries and become sons and daughters of God the Father.
 - We become partakers of the divine nature.





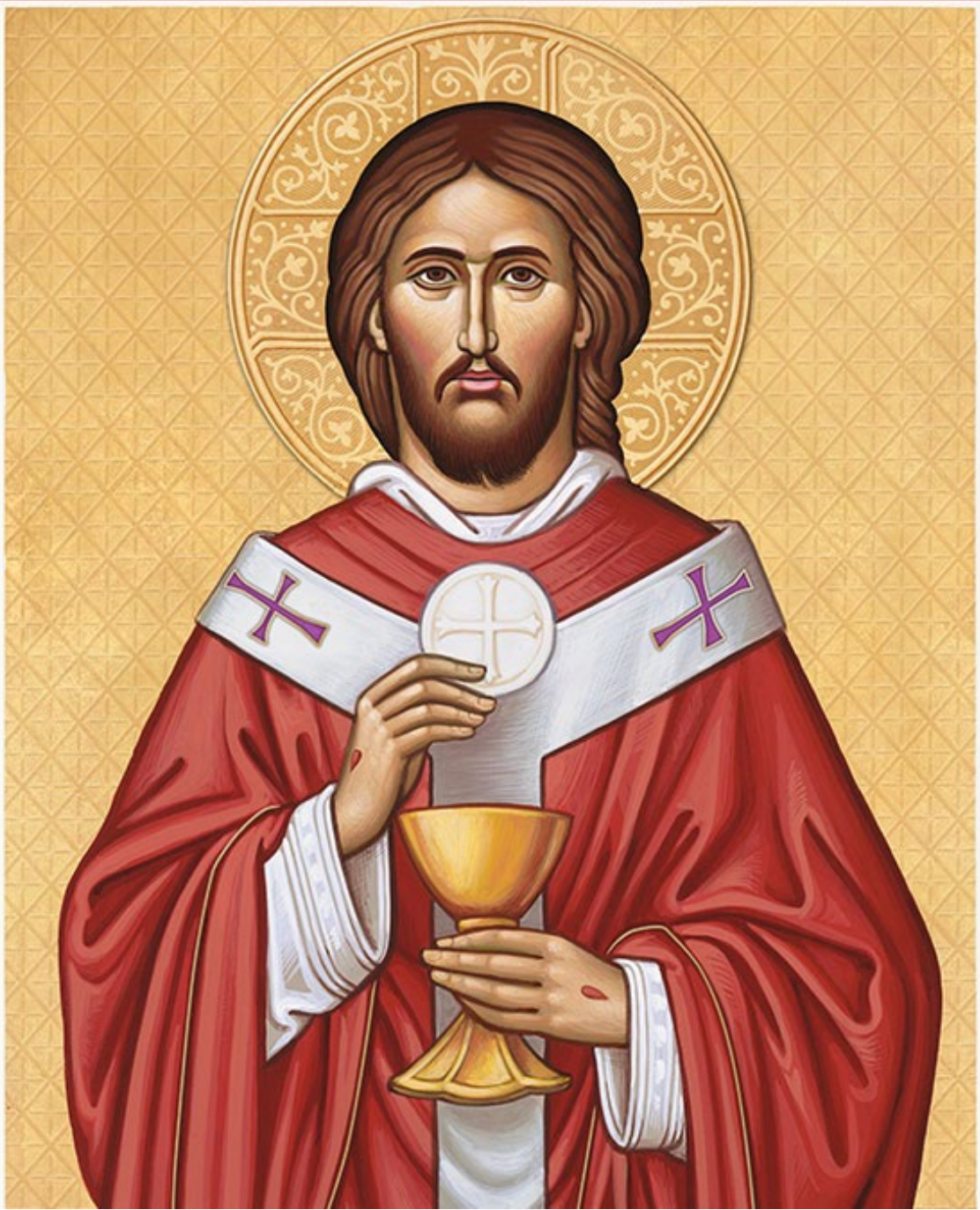
The Priesthood of Christ the High Priest

- “The office proper to a priest is to be a mediator between God and the people: namely, inasmuch as He bestows Divine things on the people, wherefore *sacerdos* (priest) means a giver of sacred things... and again, seeing as he offers up the people’s prayers to God, and, in a manner, makes satisfaction to God for their sins.
- “Now this is most befitting to Christ. For through Him are gifts bestowed on men... He reconciled the human race to God.” – *ST III.22.1.respondeo*.



Hebrews 9:11-12

- “Now Christ has come, as the high priest of all the blessings which were to come.
- “He has passed through the greater, the more perfect tent, not made by human hands, that is, not of this created order;
- “and he has entered the sanctuary once and for all, taking with him not the blood of goats and bull calves, but his own blood, having won an eternal redemption.”



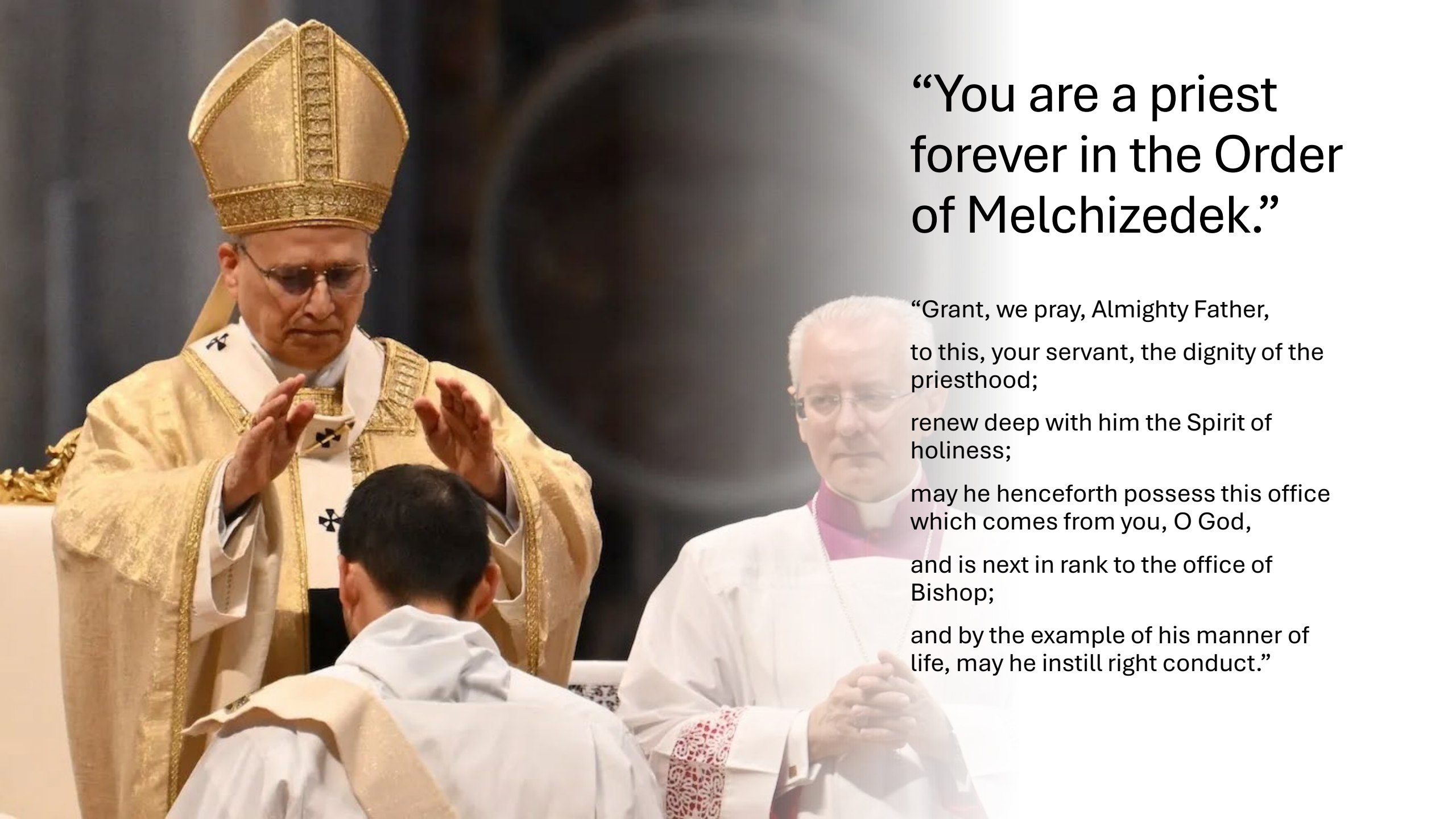
Christ is a priest forever

- Ps. 110 – Christ is continually interceding for us before the Father in heaven.
- Heb. 7:25 – “He is always able to save those who approach God through Him, since he lives forever to make intercession for them.”



Holy Order: A Participation in Christ's Priesthood

“But in these last days, holy Father,
you sent your Son into the world,
Jesus, who is Apostle and High Priest of our confession.
Through the Holy Spirit
he offered himself to you as a spotless victim;
and he made his Apostles, consecrated in the truth,
sharers in his mission.
You provided them also with companions
to proclaim and carry out the work of salvation
throughout the whole world.”



“You are a priest
forever in the Order
of Melchizedek.”

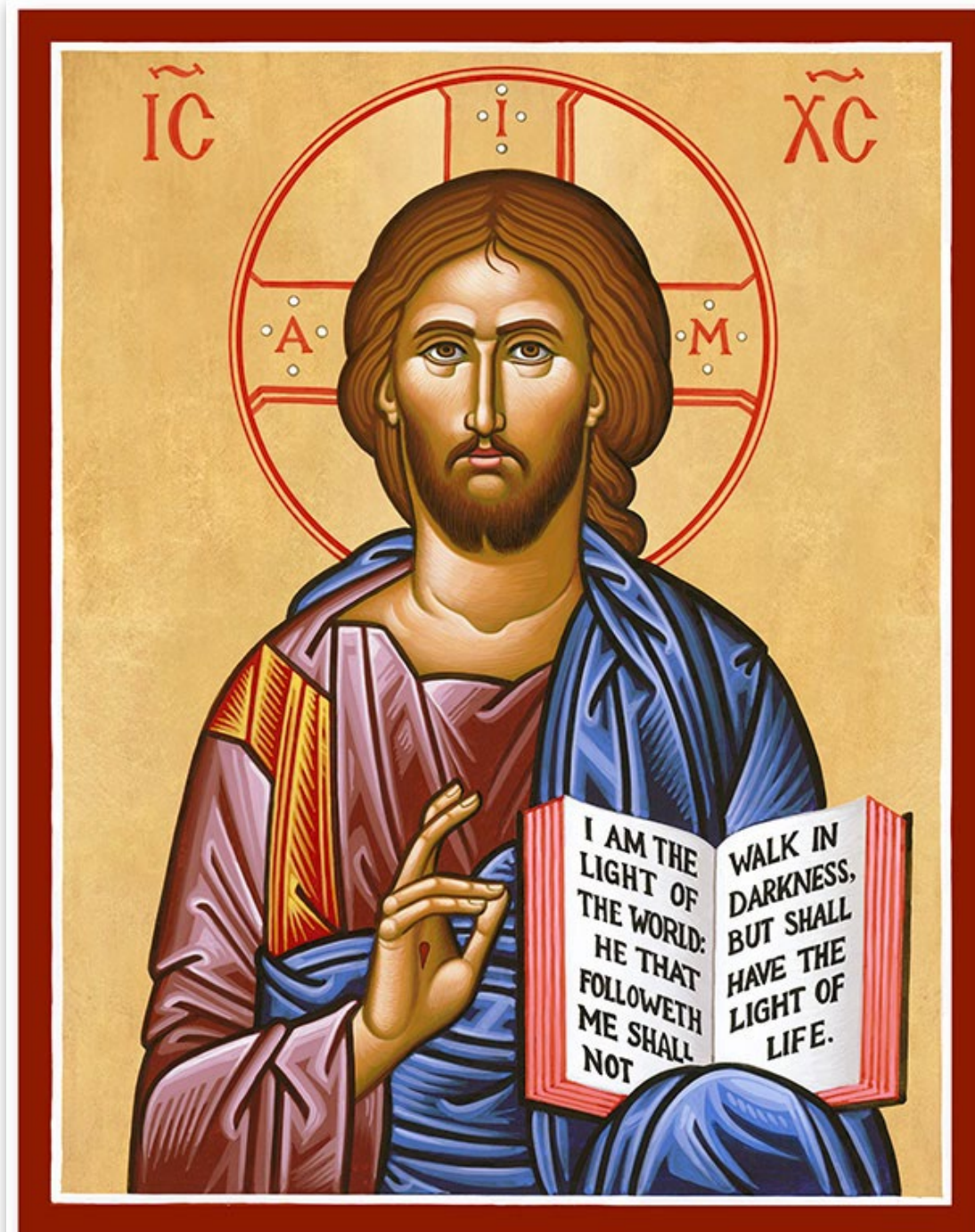
“Grant, we pray, Almighty Father,
to this, your servant, the dignity of the
priesthood;
renew deep with him the Spirit of
holiness;
may he henceforth possess this office
which comes from you, O God,
and is next in rank to the office of
Bishop;
and by the example of his manner of
life, may he instill right conduct.”

Hebrews 5:1-6

- “Every high priest is chosen from his fellow men and appointed to serve God on their behalf, to offer sacrifices and offerings for sins.
- “Since he himself is weak in many ways, he is able to be gentle with those who are ignorant and make mistakes. And because he is himself weak, he must offer sacrifices not only for the sins of the people but also for his own sins.
- “No one chooses for himself the honor of being a high priest. It is only by God’s call that a man is made a high priest...
- “In the same way, Christ did not take upon himself the honor of being a high priest. Instead, God said to him... ‘you are a priest forever, in the priestly order of Melchizedek.’”

Service of the People of God

- *Munus Docendi* – Teaching Office: to pass on the deposit of faith whole & entire from age to age.
- *Munus Regendi* – Pastoral Governance of the Church, the People of God.
 - *Model: The Good Shepherd*
- *Munus Sanctificandi* – Divine Worship of God





Tria Munera

- To faithfully teach, govern, and sanctify the people of God is the primary duty of Bishops, Priests, and Deacons.
 - They faithfully hand on the deposit of faith (Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition) and participate in the Magisterium (Teaching Office).
 - They offer the sacrifices of the People of God to God, as well as the Sacrifice of the Eucharist.
 - They bestow the blessings of God onto his people.

Bishops

- Successors of the Apostles.
 - “Perfect in Thy priest the fullness of thy ministry and, clothing him in all the ornaments of spiritual glorification, sanctify him with the Heavenly anointing.” – Sacramentum Ordinis
 - The College of Bishops have care and concern for the apostolic mission of all the churches throughout the world in union with and the authority of the Pope.
 - Ring, Miter, Crosier as symbols of *tria munera*.



Priesthood

- Priests – co-workers with the bishops.
 - “By sacred ordination a sacrament is conferred on priests through which, ‘by the anointing of the Holy Spirit, they are signed with a special character and are so configured to Christ the Priest that they have the power to act in the person of Christ the Head.’ – Rite of Ordination
 - The principal reason that they receive this character is to confect the Eucharist and to forgive the sins of the faithful. - Ludwig Ott



Diaconate

- Deacons
 - “At a lower level of the hierarchy are deacons, upon whom hands are imposed ‘not unto the priesthood, but unto a ministry of service.’” LG 29
 - “Send forth upon them, Lord, we pray, the Holy Spirit, that they may be strengthened by the gift of your sevenfold grace for the faithful carrying out of the work of the ministry.” – Rite of Ordination
 - ‘Receive the Gospel of Christ, whose herald you now are. Believe what you read, teach what you believe, and practice what you teach.’

“To Guard, Unite, and Govern...”

- Eucharistic Prayer 1 – The Roman Canon
- Vicar of Christ
 - One who stands in the place of another.
 - The Pope is the Chief Shepherd on earth until Christ reappears.
 - Ex) First mate on a ship

