

# Recognizing, Exercising, & Living Your Royal Priesthood

AS CATHOLICS WE MUST KNOW AND "BREATHE" THESE PASSAGES

JN 6:25-59 and LK 22:14—20 924



If you hearken to My voice and keep my covenant, you shall be My special possession, dearer to me than all other people.... you shall be to Me a kingdom of **priests**, a holy nation [Exodus 19:5—6].

You yourselves shall be named **priests** of the Lord, ministers of our God you shall be called [Isaiah 61:6].

The elders were holding vessels of gold filled with aromatic spices, which were the prayers of God's holy people. This is the new hymn they sang: "Worthy are you to receive the scroll and break open its seals, for you were slain. With your blood you purchased for God men of every race and tongue, of every people and nation. You made of them a kingdom, and **priests** to serve our God, and they shall reign on the earth" [Revelation 5:9—10 see also REV 1:4—6].

**How marvelous is the priesthood of the Christian**, for he is both the Victim that is offered on his own behalf, and the priest who makes the offering. St. Peter Chrysologus,

You, however, are a chosen race, a **royal priesthood**, a holy nation, a people He claims for His own to proclaim the glorious works of the One who called you from darkness into His own marvelous light [1 Peter, 2:9].

The baptized, by regeneration and the anointing of the Holy Spirit, are consecrated to be a spiritual house **and a holy priesthood...**

Therefore all the disciples of Christ, persevering in prayer and praising God, should present themselves as a sacrifice, living, holy and pleasing to God....

Though **they differ essentially and not only in degree**, the **common priesthood** of the faithful and the **ministerial or hierarchical priesthood** are nonetheless ordered to one another; each in its own proper way shares in the one priesthood of Christ. The ministerial priest, by the sacred power that he has, forms and rules the priestly people; in the Person of Christ he effects the Eucharistic Sacrifice and offers it to God in the name of all the people. The faithful indeed, **by virtue of their Royal Priesthood, participate in the offering of the Eucharist**. They exercise that priesthood, too, by the reception of the sacraments, prayer and thanksgiving, the witness of a holy life, abnegation, and active charity [Documents of Vatican II: **Lumen Gentium** #10].

Taking part in the Eucharistic sacrifice, the source and summit of the Christian life, **they offer the Divine Victim to God and themselves along with it** [**Lumen Gentium** #11].

"Pray brethren that my sacrifice **and yours** may be acceptable to God the Almighty Father..."

...they offer the unblemished sacrificial Victim **not only by means of the hands of the Priest, but also together with him...** [General Instruction on the Roman Missal #95].

For **all**, regenerated in Christ, are made Kings by the Sign of the Cross; they are consecrated priests by the Oil of the Holy Spirit, so that beyond the special service of our ministry as [ordained] priests, **all** spiritual and mature Christians know that they are a royal race and are sharers in the office of the priesthood....And what is more priestly than to promise the Lord a pure conscience and to offer Him in love unblemished victims **on the altar of one's heart?** .... The oil which consecrates us has richer effects in the higher grades, yet is not sparingly given in the lower [Pope St. Leo the Great].

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For Christ not only adorns with a Royal Priesthood the people He has made His Own, but with a Brother's kindness He also chooses men to become sharers in His sacred ministry through the laying on of hands. [Preface for Chrism Mass, Holy Thursday]

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Remember Lord your servants **N.** and **N.** and all gathered here, whose faith and devotion are known to you. For them we offer you this sacrifice of praise, **or they offer it for themselves** and all who are dear to them: for the redemption of their souls, in hope of health and well-being, and paying their homage to you, the Eternal God, living and true [Eucharistic Prayer I].

**ESSENCE OF PRIESTHOOD: TO OFFER SACRIFICE**

**ESSENCE OF SACRIFICE: SEPARATION OF BODY & BLOOD**

**... THEREFORE YOU ARE NOT MERELY SPECTATORS BUT PARTICIPANTS**

*Eternal Father, we [I] offer You the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity  
of Your dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ in atonement for our [my] sins and for  
those of the whole world. -- [Divine Mercy Chaplet]*

**PONDER IMAGE OF MARY AT FOOT OF THE CROSS—EXEMPLAR OF ROYAL PRIESTHOOD**

**WAYS TO PARTICIPATE MORE DEEPLY IN THE HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS  
& MORE RESPONSIBLY LIVE AND EMBRACE YOUR PRIESTHOOD**

**EX OPERE OPERANTIS**

**1. DAILY MASS WHEN PRACTICABLE**

**2. THANKSGIVING... EUCHARISTIA**

**INTENTIONALLY EXERCISE YOUR PRIESTHOOD**

--OFFER SON TO FATHER from THE ALTAR OF YOUR HEART

--DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET PRAYER

--**OFFER MASS FOR A SPECIFIC PERSON OR INTENTION!!!!**

SOMETIMES SKIP SINGING SAPPY SONGS FROM THE 60'S .... SILENCE!

ADDRESS WORDS TO FATHER... AND SON... AND HOLY SPIRIT

SILENT CONTEMPLATIVE RESTING

WANDER AND PONDER ["HOLY SAUNTERING"]

**3. DIVE MORE DEEPLY INTO THE GOSPELS -- KNOW JESUS' WORDS & STORY**

**4. REMOTE PREP**

--DO READINGS EARLY; "TREASURE AND PONDER" [LK 2:19]

--TRY TO ARRIVE AT MASS EARLY TO CALM DOWN... RECOLLECT YOURSELF

**5. "EYES TO THE FRONT!"**

--AT MASS, FOCUS ON WORD PROCLAIMED NOT NOSE IN BOOK [OR WORSE, IN PHONE]

--TRY NOT TO BE "SCOPING"

**6. LIVE YOUR PRIESTHOOD**

--KENOSIS--SELF EMPTYING

--JOHN THE BELOVED AT JESUS' SIDE... MARY MAGDALENE AT HIS FEET [6X]

**DON'T SETTLE FOR A MERELY "PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP" WITH JESUS!**

**... SEEK FRIENDSHIP and INTIMACY**

**LIFE IS TO GET CLOSE TO CHRIST...THE REST IS DETAILS.  
THE MASS IS MY LIFE AND MY LIFE IS THE MASS**