

Ritual Moment

Anointing with Oil

Introduction

During the celebration of the sacrament of Holy Orders, the presiding bishop anoints the candidate's hands with holy chrism, the oil that is a sign of the special anointing of the Holy Spirit. The anointing of hands is a sign of the holy work the priest will do throughout his ministry, and in particular the celebration of the Eucharist.

Word of God

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; He has sent me to bring glad tidings to the lowly, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to captives and release to the prisoners, to announce a year of favor from the Lord and a day of vindication by our God, to comfort all who mourn; to place on those who mourn in Zion a diadem instead of ashes.
(Isaiah 61:1-3)

Words to Remember:

FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit brings alive in us the Fruits of the Spirit: charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control, and chastity.

Practice: Living the Fruits of the Spirit

Practice identifying the Fruits of the Spirit alive in your own home and community. Acknowledge and affirm each other when you see the Fruits of the Spirit being practiced.

Activity

Every day for twelve days, focus on one of the Fruits of the Spirit at your family meal. How have you seen that Fruit active in each other? Name the ways. Incorporate a simple prayer of thanksgiving for that Fruit into your table prayer for the meal.

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Called by Name

Introduction

In the Sacrament of Holy Orders, the community celebrates and affirms the candidate's response to God's call to serve.

Word of God

David, my servant, is the one I chose to be king, and I will always be there to help and strengthen him. (Psalm 89:20-21)

Word to Remember: CHOSEN

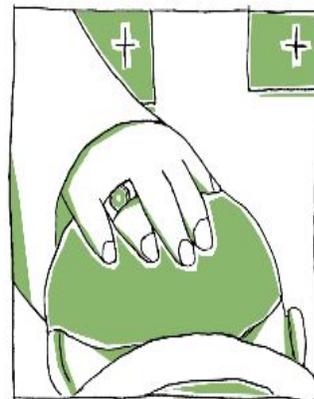
God chooses us. God calls us by name. How are we responding to his call to know, love and serve him?

Practice: Responding

Practice responding to God's call in the simple, ordinary choices you make during the day. For example, let go of a grudge and forgive, or reach out with caring arms in a hug of compassion for someone who needs it. God has chosen you, by name, to be a disciple of Jesus.

Activity

Look around you. How do you see people responding to God's call? Name the ways that your own parish priest(s) and ordained ministers model what it means to respond to God's call. Remember them and their ministries in your prayers.



Ritual Moment

Litany of Saints

Introduction

A priest celebrating the Sacrament of Ordination does so with the support of the entire church community, including the communion of saints. During the liturgy, the people ask the saints in heaven to pray for the newly ordained and the community.

Word of God

I have loved you, just as my Father has loved me. So remain faithful to my love for you. Now I tell you to love each other, as I have loved you. You did not choose me. I chose you and sent you out to produce fruit, the kind of fruit that will last. So I command you to love each other. (John 15:9, 12, 16-17)

Word to Remember: FAITHFULNESS

The lives of the saints provide us with numerous case studies of what it means to be faithful, to be true to one's self and to the Gospel. Faithfulness to the Gospel is a key virtue for the newly ordained priest, as well as for all disciples of Jesus.

Practice: Faithfulness

Practice faithfulness by learning, questioning, and finding answers about your faith. When your beliefs are tested, continue to practice them as faithfully as you can.

Activity

Take a faithfulness assessment: Do you keep your promises? Do you walk the talk? Do you do your jobs (at home, school, work) with excellence? Do you practice what you say you believe? Are you a loyal friend? Name a person who you think is an example of what it means to be faithful. Explain why you choose that person. What qualities of faithfulness does he or she model?

Ritual Moment

Breaking Bread

Introduction

It is a sacred, blessed moment when a newly ordained priest celebrates his first Eucharistic Liturgy. In the celebration of Liturgy, which is a core action of every priest's life, he acts in the person of Christ, he proclaims the mystery of Christ, and he unites the community of believers to Christ.

Word of God

Jesus took some bread in his hands and gave thanks for it. He broke the bread and handed it to his apostles. Then he said, "This is my body, which is given for you. Eat this as a way of remembering me!" (Luke 22:19)

Word to Remember: REMEMBER

For disciples of Jesus, to remember is a spiritual act. In the Eucharistic celebration, we remember Jesus not as a history lesson, but as Christ truly present here and now. Remembering is a spiritual act when we remember that God is present in the ordinary and extraordinary moments of life.

Practice

Prayer is the discipline of remembering that God is present within us. The Eucharist is our greatest prayer as a Christian people of remembering God's Presence. The Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist transforms us.

Activity

Write the word "Remember" on one-half of a piece of cardboard. Children can decorate the letters and card. Fold the cardboard in half with the word on the outside so that you can prop the card in the center of your family table. During mealtime prayer, remember and name the blessings God has given you that day. Remember your parish priests in your prayer, too, as well as those discerning whether God is calling them to the vocation of the priesthood.