

Lesson Plan

PATH FINDERS

Chapter 12

The Sacrament of Holy Orders

Objective

By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

- Explain the meaning and purpose of the Sacrament of Holy Orders.
- Differentiate between common priesthood and ministerial priesthood.
- Recognize the three main roles of a priest — teacher, sanctifier, and leader.
- Understand the apostolic succession and the rite of laying on of hands.
- Appreciate the vocation to priesthood and commit to praying for priests.

Introduction

Begin by asking students: "Have you ever wondered why priests wear special clothes or why they are called 'Father'?"

Allow a few students to share what they think priests do beyond saying Mass. This sparks curiosity about the priesthood.

Presentation of the Topic

Part 1: Understanding Priesthood in the Old and New Testaments

- Explain how in the Old Testament, priests offered sacrifices to God on behalf of the people (Levites).
- Compare with the New Testament priesthood perfected through Jesus — the eternal High Priest who offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice (Heb 9:11–14).

- Emphasize: “Christ’s one sacrifice continues through the Church’s priests today.”

Mini-Activity:

Students open Hebrews 9 and list one key difference between the priesthood of the Old Covenant and that of Jesus.

Part 2: The Meaning of Priesthood

- The word “priest” means “one who is placed in front.”

The priest stands before God on behalf of the people and before the people on behalf of God.

- Reference 1 Tim 2:5 — “There is one mediator between God and mankind — Jesus Christ.”

Part 3: Two Types of Priesthood

- **Common Priesthood:** Shared by all baptized believers (1 Peter 2:9).
- **Ministerial Priesthood:** Given to some who are specially chosen to serve, sanctify, and lead in the name of Christ (Mk 3:14–15).

Visual Aid: Draw a simple chart comparing **Common vs Ministerial Priesthood**.

Aspect	Common Priesthood	Ministerial Priesthood
Who?	All baptized	Ordained priests & bishops
Purpose	Witness to Christ through daily life	Lead, sanctify & teach the Church
Sacrifice	Spiritual offerings	Eucharistic sacrifice
Role	Share in Christ’s mission	Continue Christ’s priestly work

Part 4: Apostolic Succession & Laying on of Hands

- Explain that priests receive their authority through the laying on of hands by bishops (2 Tim 1:6).
- This continues the apostolic mission given by Jesus to the first disciples.

- Mention how the Holy Spirit empowers priests to fulfill their duties despite human weakness.

Part 5: Roles of a Priest

1. **Priest as Teacher** – shares God’s Word faithfully.
2. **Priest as Sanctifier** – celebrates sacraments to make people holy.
3. **Priest as Leader** – guides the community in the spirit of service and humility.

You may ask students to identify examples of how priests in their parish live out these three roles.

Habit Formation

Encourage students to:

- ✓ **Pray for priests and religious leaders daily.**
- ✓ **Reflect if God might be calling them (or someone they know) to a life of service in the Church.**

Activity

The Future Church Leaders

Divide students into groups. Give them chart paper or whiteboard space to creatively answer:

“What qualities should a good priest or religious leader have?”

They can draw, write words, or create a quick role-play. Wrap up by highlighting that leaders are human, chosen by God, and need our support and prayers.

Or

Read in groups chapter nine of the letter to the Hebrews and compare the priesthood of the Old Testament with the priesthood of Jesus

Bible Verse

Read and Learn:

John 15:16 — “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit.”

Conclusion

End with a short prayer:

O Jesus, who called your disciples saying “Follow Me,” bless our priests who serve you faithfully. Strengthen their hearts with your love, and inspire young people to hear your call to priesthood. Amen.