



YO FATHER

Q I thought holy orders was like marriage and baptism — sacraments you can receive only once. So why are deacons and priests and bishops all ordained?

A You are 100 percent correct! Holy Orders is a sacrament that is received only once. But, being a priest, I have myself have gone through two different ordination rituals, and our very own Bishop Malloy has gone through three ordination rituals. So it would seem that we have

some explaining to do!

When a man is in the seminary, studying and preparing for the priesthood, he receives different ministries as steps towards eventually being ordained a priest. Some of these ministries include lector (being officially installed to proclaim the Word at Mass) and acolyte (being officially installed to serve the priest during Mass).

When a seminarian is within his final year of being ordained a priest, he is first ordained a deacon. This would be the first time that a man would receive the sacrament of holy orders.

However, at this time he is only being ordained for the duty of serving the priest at the altar. Thus, this is simply one degree within the sacrament of holy orders. At this point this man cannot celebrate Mass or hear confessions, which should be obvious simply because

he hasn't been ordained a priest yet!

Confect: make (something) by putting together various elements. In this sense, it means a priest, acting in the place of Christ, is repeating Jesus's miracle at the Last Supper.

Six months to a year later, when he is ordained a priest, he would be able to confect the Eucharist and absolve sins.

However, that priest would not be able to ordain other priests by himself presiding over the sacrament of holy orders. The ability to perform the sacrament of holy orders upon another is a duty that only bishops can do.

So, when a priest is going to be made a bishop, he comes forward for one more ordination ritual. Things may be even muddier now than before, but

I hope I'll clear it up for you right here: We say that there are three degrees of holy orders, each of which you can only receive once.

A deacon is ordained to the ministry of service, a priest is ordained to minister at the altar, and a bishop is ordained to receive the fullness of the priesthood. The bishops receive this fullness, because when they are ordained as bishops, they are brought into a lineage, of leadership and governance in the Church that is a part of an unbroken line going back directly to the Apostles!

All priests then, receive their ordination as a participation in the work of the bishop of their diocese. Deacons, too, are ordained to serve within their diocese, but in a different way than the priests. Some are laymen who will serve as deacons all their lives. They are called permanent deacons.

Others are on their way to priesthood, and are called transitional deacons.

So again, to reiterate, there is one sacrament of holy orders, but three degrees within it.

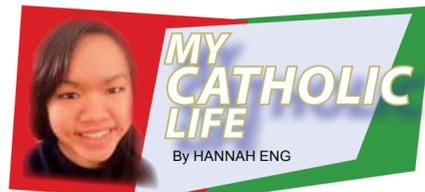
We would *not* say that a bishop has received three separate holy orders, but rather that he has received all three degrees of the one sacrament. So when we say that holy orders is received only once, we are saying that the heart of the sacrament — the Holy Spirit coming down to consecrate the man and to imbue a special power for the sake of sanctification — this effect only happens once, but that there are three occasions on which the Holy Spirit desires to give greater and more powerful effects through His anointing, and thus there are three degrees within the sacrament.

This month's YO Father question is answered by Father Keith Romke. Send your questions to youngobserver@rockforddiocese.org.



(Photo provided)

Boylan students gather at the statue of Our Lady of Grace to pray the rosary with their theology teacher, Father David Finn, during rosary month in October.



I have one of those *I-was-born-into-a-Catholic-household-but-I-lost-sight-for-a-while-but-I-came-back-and-my-faith-is-stronger-than-ever* kinds of journey.

It's so typical, but then again, if the Catholic faith has taught me anything, it's that every individual is made unique and that God made us for each other, to love one another. So although I don't find my faith journey all that exciting, it is *my* journey and that makes it unique in a way. Plus, I'm only 16, God-forbid, I still have a long ride ahead of me.

I grew up in Chicago for eight years. I went to St. Therese Catholic School, grew up with the same set of classmates and made friends easily.

Looking back, I'd deem my faith pretty strong for an 8-year-old: I knew all the basic Biblical stories and prayers. My parents tried to take my sister and I to church every Sunday, and I had received all my sacraments.

Then (yep the cliché, "then") we moved out to the western suburbs. I was put into the public school system, and only now do I realize how cloistered and sheltered I was as a child.

I didn't know how to fit into that environment. I thought something was wrong with me and I fell into a depression. My parents still took us to church, but I did stop praying every night and I fell out of faith for a while.

It was when I made my first true friendship three years later that I came back. We are still the best of friends and I thank her and God everyday for helping me find my way.

Today, I realize that God made us for each other. To love each other and to spread the loving message of the faith to those who are not a part of it, or maybe are no longer practicing. Our call as Catholics is to be that helping and supportive hand to others.

— Hannah Eng attends Rosary High School in Aurora and is a member of Holy Cross Parish in Batavia

Share your faith stories

If you are a high school or college student who is interested in sharing your faith journey, tell us in about 250 words. Write about how you live your faith every day. Talk about what being Catholic means to you.

Send your essay and a photo of yourself to youngobserver@rockforddiocese.org. Put "My Catholic Life" in the subject line. Be sure to include your age, phone number (not for publication), school, parish and town.



(Photo provided)

Rosary High School freshman Sarah Foley is interviewed by a Smithsonian film crew.

Smithsonian film crew visits Rosary

AURORA—A film crew from the Smithsonian visited Rosary High School in Aurora Nov. 19-20 to speak with students from the honors world history classes who have been participating in the online Smithsonian Quest program.

Rosary students have been working with the Smithsonian Learning Initiative program for the past two years. This program is connected to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C. — the country's premiere museum.

"Because I was so impressed with your students' submissions to the 'Cultural Storyteller' badge last year ... we were hoping we could feature your students and their work with Smithsonian Quests this fall," wrote Ashley Naranjo, learning initiatives specialist with the Smithsonian Center for Learning and Digital Access. "We have a film crew that would travel alongside me and would love to see your students in action."

Rosary is one of five schools in the nation chosen for a visit from the Smithsonian crew.

"This is an incredible honor for our school and most certainly a reflection of the outstanding work our history students complete here at Rosary High School," said class teacher Stephanie Krzeminski. "There is nothing quite like seeing students use their gifts in conjunction with their interests — this is where academic magic happens. Using technology to integrate creative thought with good old-fashioned kinesthetic learning has allowed our students the opportunity to

see history through new lenses. I am so proud of our girls and all of their hard work!"

Students who participated in the program the first year, 2013-14, are Kate Bennett, Emily Dooley, Emily Emerson, Tiffany Hamling, Erin Hawkins, Julia Issacs, Allison Mansour, Kailey Novack, Anna Stephens, Claire Thoms, Montserrat Villapando, Sarah Willman, Piper Winkler, and Olivia Wulbert.

Students in the program now are Maddie Andras, Nadia Callahan, Katherine Danos, Sarah Foley, Erika Ford, Lizzie Graft, Maya Guzniczak, Claire Hengesbaugh, Carlee Hoschouer, Abby Kennedy, Abigail Lieser, Madison Luce, Rachel Marr, Riley McCue, Hannah Noel, Sofia Papoutsis, Marissa Sepulveda, Bridgette Valenti, Megan Whitmer, and Sarah Woodford.



(Photo provided)

Freshman Carlee Hoschouer poses near an "Egyptian queen" during her interview with a Smithsonian film crew.

Check out these scholarships

■ AURORA—The Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley's 2015 Scholarship Program offers scholarships to students who will attend an accredited institution of higher education on a full-time basis during the 2015-16 academic year. Eligibility is limited to residents of Aurora, southern Kane County and Kendall County. Deadline is Feb. 2. Info: through Feb. 2 at <http://go.cffrv.org/scholarship>; sch@communityfoundationfrv.org; 630/896-7800.

■ MONROE, WISCONSIN—Clinic Volunteers are offering two types of scholarships for students from Durand, Freeport, and Lena who are seeking a career in a health-related field. High school seniors may apply for one of four \$500 scholarships; and college students for one of five \$1,500 scholarships. Deadline is Feb. 20. Info: Dawn Meier, 608/324-1569.

VOCATION CORNER

What's inside?

Seeing as how we are just a few days away from Christmas, many of us have all kinds of presents wrapped up and sitting under the tree. It is always exciting to guess what may be inside, and I admit that I frequently get impatient as I have to wait to open them. As the day draws closer and closer I find myself being drawn to them . . .

I so badly want to know what's inside.

In light of this experience, the question that I pose is this: are we as excited and dedicated to unwrapping the gift of God's plan for our lives as we are to open the shiny silver package with the red bow that's been taunting us for the past few days or weeks?

Surely we know that God's gift of our particular call to holiness is, in the end, much more important and valuable than whatever is under the tree, no matter what it might be!

And yet we sometimes avoid even calling to mind that God has an unwrapped package for us, because we are afraid of how what we find inside might impact and change the direction of our lives!

I always ask for permission to open my gifts under the tree early! But why don't I always do the same with whatever God has for me? I should be even more excited when I look at that gift with the eyes of faith!

So as you open your presents, don't forget to open the most important one of all! A little hint to help you remember: Ask Him if you can open it right now!

— Father Keith Romke is diocesan Director of Vocations. Write to him at kromke@rockforddiocese.org.

Helping

IN AURORA

Marmion Academy drive yields 1+ tons of clothing



(Photos provided)

Sophomore Theology students load 1/3 of the 1+ tons of winter clothing collected during the Marmion Academy Clothing Drive into the Wayside Cross truck.

Marmion Academy's sophomore theology classes and campus ministry co-sponsored a winter clothing drive with a goal of collecting a ton of clothes, literally.

The students tried to collect more than 2,000 pounds of clothing for three Aurora area agencies — Hesel House, Lazarus House and Wayside Cross Ministries.

Each class was challenged to donate the largest amount of gently used winter-wear. When the drive ended Oct. 31, the sophomore class soared above the rest hauling in over 700 pounds of more than one ton of coats, hats and gloves.

Marmion parents sorted and boxed the clothes which were then delivered to the participating agencies.



Father Michael Burrow, OSB '70 (far left) and his seventh-hour sophomore theology class helped with the sophomore class winter clothing collection.

Watch



Real Faith TV

sundays at 6 a.m. on WREX-TV, Channel 13 in Rockford.

too early? Catch it on the Web at www.realfaithtv.com

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