

Fr. Perozich comments —

PROMISES FROM RITE OF PRIESTLY ORDINATION

- Do you resolve, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to discharge without fail the Office of Priesthood in the presbyteral rank, as a worthy **fellow worker** with the Order of Bishops in caring for the Lord's flock?
- Do you resolve to exercise the **ministry of the word** worthily and wisely, **preaching the Gospel and teaching the Catholic faith?**
- Do you resolve to celebrate faithfully and reverently, in **accord with the Church's tradition**, the mysteries of Christ, especially **the sacrifice of the Eucharist and the Sacrament of Reconciliation**, for the glory of God and the sanctification of the Christian people?
- Do you resolve to implore with us God's mercy upon the people entrusted to your care by **observing the command to pray** without ceasing?
- Do you resolve to be united more closely every day to Christ the High Priest, who offered himself for us to the Father as a pure sacrifice, and with him to **consecrate yourself to God for the salvation of all?**

PROMISE OF OBEDIENCE

- "Do you promise respect and obedience to me and my successors?"

We are the church, charged to go to all nations to baptize them in the name of the Trinity and to teach them all that Jesus taught.

We are the church, yeast that gives raises a fallen world, salt that flavors the world with truth, light which guides people to Jesus.

We are kings, prophets and priests by virtue of our baptism, called to preach the world show mercy as we are able, and to worship God and teach His truth.

In this global arena, Christians can get caught up in temporal events, systems of economics, ideas of justice and fairness so that each person might have the same material benefits, despite Jesus' admonition that we would always have the poor among us, the very poor who need to have the word preached to them too.

In mercy Christians need to help where they can to exercise their kingly ministry, but never at the neglect of proclaiming Jesus.

Ordained priests are charged with preaching the word, teaching the faith, offering the sacraments, pray without ceasing, uniting tighter to Jesus as fellow workers with bishops to bring Christ to their flocks and to the world.

If we priests carry out our promises, the laity will be closer to the Lord.

Bishops too are priests, and need to remember their vows as priests which bind them to the same ministry, not to global affairs of which I hear so much lately.

As church leaders listen to people, their response should not be to soften Jesus' teachings so that people will stay in the church; on the contrary, listening should inform leaders of what the people know and do not know about the faith, where people hold truth and where they are deceived.

Then, the full gospel may be preached so that people be saved.

And the fullness of the gospel is the Holy Name and Person of Jesus Christ.

Pope St. Paul VI's homily from 1970 reveals what we should be doing as church, not the tangential synods, listening, and accommodation to the world.

From a homily by Pope Paul VI
(Hom. Maniliae habita die 29 novembris 1970)

We proclaim Christ to the whole world

Not to preach the Gospel would be my undoing, for Christ himself sent me as his apostle and witness. The more remote, the more difficult the assignment, the more my love of God spurs me on. I am bound to proclaim that Jesus is Christ, the Son of the living God. Because of him we come to know the God we cannot see. He is the firstborn of all creation; in him all things find their being. Man's teacher and redeemer, he was born for us, died for us, and for us he rose from the dead.

All things, all history converges in Christ. A man of sorrow and hope, he knows us and loves us. As our friend he stays by us throughout our lives; at the end of time he will come to be our judge; but we also know that he will be the complete fulfillment of our lives and our great happiness for all eternity.

I can never cease to speak of Christ for he is our truth and our light; *he is the way, the truth and the life*. He is our bread, our source of living water who allays our hunger and satisfies our thirst. He is our shepherd, our leader, our ideal, our comforter and our brother.

He is like us but more perfectly human, simple, poor, humble, and yet, while burdened with work, he is more patient. He spoke on our behalf; he worked miracles; and he founded a new kingdom: in it the poor are happy; peace is the foundation of a life in common; where the pure of heart and those who mourn are uplifted and comforted; the hungry find justice; sinners are forgiven; and all discover that they are brothers.

The image I present to you is the image of Jesus Christ. As Christians you share his name; he has already made most of you his own. So once again I repeat his name to you Christians and I proclaim to all men: Jesus Christ is the beginning and the end, the alpha and the omega, Lord of the new universe, the great hidden key to human history and the part we play in it. He is the mediator – the bridge, if you will – between heaven and earth. Above all he is the Son of man, more perfect than any man, being also the Son of God, eternal and infinite. He is the son of Mary his mother on earth, more blessed than any woman. She is also our mother in the spiritual communion of the mystical body.

Remember: it is Jesus Christ I preach day in and day out. His name I would see echo and re-echo for all time even to the ends of the earth.