
Holy Ordination



These are as follows:

1. Deacon

- a) Deacons are ordained into this Order before marriage.
- b) After marriage, the deacons become priests but if they wish to be monks and be ordained priests they have to remain celibate.
- c) The duty of the deacons is to assist priests and bishops.

- d) They are ordained by bishops
- e) In our Church, there are three ranks under the deacon hood which qualify one to serve the church. These ranks are conferred through blessing and not by the laying of hands.
- f) No payment is made for receiving any of the Ordinations. (Acts 8:18-26).
- g) Ordination is not attained through inheritance but through a calling of the Holy Spirit and in accordance with the canons of the Church.

2. Priest

The order of priesthood is conferred either after marriage or after becoming a monk. He can perform all the sacraments except, conferring Ordination, consecration of the Holy Oil used for sacrament of confirmation, consecration of the altar, the Ark of the Covenant, new church and new vessels. If he becomes a priest in celibacy, he can attain the rank of bishop, but if he is married, he will be limited to the rank of priesthood. A priest is ordained by the laying of hands and the breath of a bishop.

3. Bishop

This rank is conferred on a clergy who has restricted himself in celibacy. He is consecrated by all the members of the Holy Synod but in times of difficulties, he is consecrated by the laying of hands and breath of at least two bishops. Besides administering all the sacraments of the Church, he is a church leader and an overseer of the general affairs of the Church. Those who are ordained as bishops must fulfill the following requirements. They should be:-

- Of good health
- Well educated to defend and profess their faith
- Of exemplary behavior
- Only males

Ordination is not repeated or renewed. Both those who reordain or are reordained are deconsecrated from their ordination. (Canon of the Apostles 68). Christ chose a certain number of persons for the Holy Ordination. (Lk. 6:12, 13; Jn. 20: 19-25). He also gave them special authority not given to others. (Mt. 18:18). Before His ascension, Christ promised them that He

will always be with them to the end of the world. (Mt. 28:20). He also appointed them with all ranks. (Lk. 24:51). When Judas left his Apostolic ministry, the Apostles held a Synodical Meeting and chose Mathias as a replacement. (Acts 1:15-26).