

# Vocation, Holiness, and Priestly Life

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This is a reflection on the many "layers" of vocation: existence, holiness, state of life, particular, and immediate vocation. God calls us into being, invites us into communion with Him through His Son, to a new life marked by holiness. This baptismal vocation to holiness is expressed in a specific way in diocesan priesthood, as a man is betrothed to the Church. As a priest lives out his vocation, his priesthood will perhaps look different as both the context of his ministry changes and as he continues to grow humanly and in relationship with the Lord. It is important to look at vocation not as a static moment but rather as an ongoing relationship with the Lord and His people.



## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What was my first awareness of God's presence to me as a child? my first thoughts of being a disciple or follower of Jesus? Can I recall the first time the Lord called me to serve as a priest?
2. How has my understanding of myself and of the priesthood grown in the course of my ministry? What have I learned about myself? What have I learned about the Lord?
3. What have been my greatest sources of joy as a priest? What gives me life? What remain my greatest apprehensions in following the Lord's call?



“After this, Jesus revealed himself again to his disciples at the Sea of Tiberias. He revealed himself in this way. Together were Simon Peter, Thomas called Didymus, Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, Zebedee’s sons, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, ‘I am going fishing.’ They said to him, ‘We also will come with you.’ So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. When it was already dawn, Jesus was standing on the shore; but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, ‘Children, have you caught anything to eat?’ They answered him, ‘No.’ So he said to them, ‘Cast the net over the right side of the boat and you will find something.’ So they cast it, and were not able to pull it in because of the number of fish. So the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, ‘It is the Lord.’ When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he tucked in his garment, for he was lightly clad, and jumped into the sea. The other disciples came in the boat, for they were not far from shore, only about a hundred yards, dragging the net with the fish. When they climbed out on shore, they saw a charcoal fire with fish on it and bread. Jesus said to them, ‘Bring some of the fish you just caught.’ So Simon Peter went over and dragged the net ashore full of one hundred fifty-three large fish. Even though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, ‘Come, have breakfast.’ And none of the disciples dared to ask him, ‘Who are you?’ because they realized it was the Lord. Jesus came over and took the bread and gave it to them, and in like manner the fish. This was now the third time Jesus was revealed to his disciples after being raised from the dead. When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, ‘Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?’ He said to him, ‘Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.’ He said to him, ‘Feed my lambs.’ He then said to him a second time, ‘Simon, son of John, do you love me?’ He said to him, ‘Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.’ He said to him, ‘Tend my sheep.’ He said to him the third time, ‘Simon, son of John, do you love me?’ Peter was distressed that he had said to him a third time, ‘Do you love me?’ and he said to him, ‘Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.’ [Jesus] said to him, ‘Feed my sheep. Amen, amen, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to dress yourself and go where you wanted; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.’ He said this, signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God. And when he had said this, he said to him, ‘Follow me.’”



## RESOURCES

[BOOK] [A Priestly People: Baptismal Priesthood and Priestly Ministry](#)  
by Jean-Pierre Torrell

[ARTICLE] [Liturgy and Vocation](#) by Monsignor Michael Heintz, Ph.D.

[ARTICLE] [Practices of Priesthood](#) by Monsignor Michael Heintz, Ph.D.



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