

#### 4. The Relationship of the Sacrament of Holy Orders and Matrimony to Apostolic Vocation.

##### INTRODUCTION

The Sacrament of the Holy Orders and Matrimony are sacraments instituted by God for the good and salvation of Mankind. A Sacrament is an outward sign of inward grace ordained by Christ through which grace is given to our souls.

These two sacraments are directed particularly towards the salvation of others. Their relationship as sacraments of service would be explained as follows:-

The relationship of the sacrament of Holy Orders and Matrimony to Apostolic Vocation.

Holy Orders and Matrimony are sacraments of service. This is because the members involved in each of these sacraments are empowered to serve into mission in the service of Christ and the Church which is the body of Christ.



As apostolic vocations, the members respond willingly to the call to service by God without compulsion. They freely give themselves towards the service of God and his Church.

While the They are sacraments directed towards the salvation of others, it is through the Service of others that personal salvation is obtained. While the the members of Major Orders serve God and the Church in "particular", the ~~exclusively~~ ordained ministers in the sacraments of the Holy Orders serve God and the Church in the "universal". However whether in "particular" or in the "universal" the central point is that they all work with faith towards the service of a communion and mission in the world.

The Married couples promise before God and before the people of God, their service to God and to the Church. This service finds its expression in their bringing forth children into the world and educating them properly according to the teachings and traditions of the Church. They also serve God by keeping the commandments themselves.



The Holy Orders is the sacrament<sup>in</sup> which the ordained ministry of Bishop, Priest and Deacons is conferred by the laying of hands and the pronouncement of the words of consecration. The ministers make their own promises and make efforts to fulfill them by discharging their duties properly.

Nevertheless, when we receive the sacraments, we receive graces. In the Sacraments of the Holy Orders and Matrimony the grace received is manifested in the individuals. It manifests effectively when the individuals discharge their duties in good faith and in the mind of the Church. By avoiding scandals and aberration the grace becomes fully manifest.

### CONCLUSION.

The Sacraments of the Holy Orders and Matrimony are sacraments unto service. They are instituted by Christ and are perfected by Him.

By the service rendered to other people one in turn receives salvation of his soul. Hence, on the



Holy Orders the ministers work towards the salvation of the people of God while in the Matrimony they work towards the salvation of their children. In turn they themselves receives salvation.

These service roles consist of the three goods of the Sacrament of Matrimony which are the good of the sacrament, the good of the spouses and the good of procreation and education of children.