



# PRIESTHOOD

*“Jesus said to them, ‘I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst...’ Jesus said to them, ‘Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever.’” – JOHN 6: 35, 53-58*

## OPENING ACTIVITY

### A CARD TRICK ANYONE CAN DO



Video available at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xcKIY\\_D2PRo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xcKIY_D2PRo)

## READING

### IT'S ALL ABOUT THE EUCHARIST

If you were to ask the question, “What is the most powerful thing in your life?” many Catholics would answer, “the Eucharist.” In the Eucharist, Jesus is physically present to us. We receive nourishment for living through receiving the Eucharist at Mass every Sunday. It is because of the priest that we can receive Jesus so intimately in the Eucharist. The priest is the only one who can consecrate the Eucharist. When the priest consecrates the bread and wine, they become the Body and Blood of Jesus, and the Last Supper is present to us. Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist.

Thank God for the gift of the priesthood! Without priests, we could not have the Eucharist.

The following is a sharing by a priest named Fr. Jason. In his blog explaining why he became a priest, Fr. Jason retold the effect of the Eucharist on his desire to become a priest.

*“I went on a retreat with the youth group. It was the first time the priesthood entered my mind. During the consecration, as I gazed at the elevated host, I thought to myself — in words that were my own, but which carried a resonance I will never forget — if there is one thing I should do, it's that. It was the defining moment of my calling. I was taken entirely by surprise. I knew I had to look into the priesthood, but I didn't know how or where.”<sup>[1]</sup>*



### YOUR OWN SPIN

- What did Fr. Jason realize is “the one thing he should do?”
- What should you think about during Mass at the moment of consecration?
- What do you think it would feel like to consecrate the Eucharist as a priest?

[1] Excerpted from: <http://biltrix.com/2013/05/04/my-vocation-story>





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## EXPLORATION

*Imagine a priest calling his mother at the end of a long day. Think of the events and experiences from the day that he might share with her.*

You will have an opportunity to recreate this conversation now. As you do this, make sure your conversation touches on some of the key activities of a priest as well as what a priest might experience or feel during those activities.



Example:

Priest: "Hi mom, it's me."

Mom: "Oh, hi son! How was your day?"

Priest: "Boy, was it busy. I visited the middle school all morning, then celebrated a funeral at noon. I prepared my homily for Sunday, then this evening we had a Parish Council meeting."

Mom: "So what was your message to the students?"

Priest: [Now students make up the rest of the conversation.]

## PRAY TOGETHER

### *Actiones Nostra*

Father, may everything we do

begin with  
your inspiration

and continue  
with your saving help.

Let our work always  
find its origin in you  
and through you reach completion.

We ask this through  
Christ our Lord.

AMEN

## VISUAL ART



Study this image in light of today's theme of the priesthood and the Eucharist.

- What happened at the supper at Emmaus?
- What message is Jesus' right hand giving?
- The little child to Jesus' left is looking right at us. Notice the direction the folds of his red garment lead your eyes. Notice the direction of his hand. What do you think he is telling us?
- What clues from the picture tell you something amazing is happening?
- Why is there a dog in the picture?
- How is this picture similar to what happens at Mass?