

The Candidate(s) having come forward, the Bishop shall say:

The Word of the Lord enjoins and provides for a duly instituted priesthood, to be instrumental in the Divine work of saving souls. Priests are therefore to be inaugurated and by ordination set apart for the duties of their sacred office by prayer and the laying on of hands. We now proceed according to the order of the church to inaugurate (*ordain*) *this our brother* who *has* presented *himself* before the Lord this day, into the first (*second* or *third*) degree of the priesthood of the Lord's New Church.

The Bishop shall then read from the following or other teachings from the Word.

And I will give you pastors according to My heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding. **248**
Jeremiah 3: 15

“You shall go to all whom I send you, and whatever I command you, you shall speak. Do not be afraid of their faces, for I am with you to deliver you,” says the Lord. **249**
Jeremiah 1: 7, 8

The law of truth was in his mouth, and injustice was not found on his lips. He walked with Me in peace and equity, and turned many away from iniquity. For the lips of a priest should keep knowledge, and people should seek the law from his mouth; for he is the messenger of the Lord of hosts. **250**
Malachi 2: 6–7

Whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your minister. **251**
And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your servant—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many. *Matthew 20: 26–28*

Now when He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. **252**
Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Then Jesus said to them again, “Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.” *John 20: 21, 22*

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. **253**
But he who is a hireling and not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep. I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am

known by My own. And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd. *John 10: 11-14, 16*

254 You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. *John 15: 16*

255 The priesthood, in the highest sense, is every function which the Lord performs as Savior, and whatever He performs as Savior is from His Divine love. Because of this, the priesthood was representative of the Lord as to all the work of salvation from Divine love. Therefore, all worship was of the office of the priest. *AC 9809: 2*

256 The Holy, which is meant by the Holy Spirit, is not transferred from person to person, but from the Lord through person to person. The Divine, which is meant by the Holy Spirit, proceeds from the Lord through the clergy by preaching, according to the reception of the doctrine of truth thence, and by the sacrament of the holy supper, according to repentance before it. *Canons H.S. IV: 5, 8, 9*

257 Among the ancients, the communication and transfer of that which was dealt with, and also its reception by another, whether it was power, or obedience, or blessing, or testification, was signified by the laying on of hands. *AC 10023: 1*

258 So it is that Jesus touched little children (Matthew 19: 13, 15; Mark 10: 13, 16); also that He healed the sick by touching them; and that those were healed who touched him. That, too, is why inaugurations into the priesthood today are performed by the laying on of hands. *CL 396: 3*

259 The affection for interior truth teaches what is in the Word. This is evident from the symbolism of a shepherd as being one who leads and teaches. From this affection a church is a church, and a pastor is a pastor. *AC 3795*

260 Two things should be in order among people, namely, those which are of heaven and those which are of the world; those which are of heaven are called ecclesiastical, and those which are of the world are called civil. Order cannot be maintained in the world without governors who observe all things which are done according to order, and those which are done contrary to order, and who reward those who live according to order and punish those who live contrary to order. If it were not so done the human race would perish. There should be

governors, therefore, who maintain order in human societies, who are skilled in the law, wise and God-fearing. Among the governors also there should be order, lest anyone from caprice or ignorance should permit evils contrary to order, and so destroy it, which is guarded against where there are superior and inferior governors, among whom there is subordination. Governors over those things with people which are of heaven, or over ecclesiastical affairs, are called priests, and their office is called the priesthood. *NJHD 311–314*

Priests must teach people the way to heaven, and must lead them in it. **261** They must teach them according to the doctrine of their church, and they must lead them to live according to it. Priests who teach truths, and by them lead to the good of life and so to the Lord, are good shepherds; but those who teach and do not lead to the good of life and so to the Lord, are evil shepherds. *NJHD 315*

If a priest is in the good of the priesthood, which is to care for the salvation of souls, to teach the way to heaven, and to lead those whom he teaches, then to the extent that he is in this good love, he acquires the truths which he may teach, and by means of which he may lead. **262** *Life 39*

The Divine virtue and operation, which are meant by the “sending of the Holy Spirit” are, with the clergy especially, enlightenment and instruction. [These] are communicated especially to the clergy because they belong to their office, and inauguration into the ministry brings them with it. **263** *TCR 146*

There are four things that with the clergy follow in order: enlightenment, perception, disposition and instruction. Enlightenment is from the Lord. Perception is with a person according to the state of his mind formed by doctrine. Disposition is from the affection of the love of the will; the delight of this love disposes. Instruction follows as an effect from the preceding causes. **264** *TCR 155*

Priests must not claim to themselves any power over the souls of people, for they do not know in what state the interiors of people are. Still less must they claim for themselves the power of opening and closing heaven, since that power belongs to the Lord alone. **265** *NJHD 316*

It is known that, in order that anything may be perfect, there must be a trine in just order, one under another, and a communication between them, and that this trine must constitute a one. In this, every kingdom is like a human being; there must be a king in it as the head, also administrators and officers as the body, and peasants along with servants as feet and soles. In like manner in the church, there must be a prelate, parish priests, and ministers under them. **266** *Coro. 17*

267

The First Degree

Addressing the Candidate(s), the Bishop shall say:

You have been prepared as *a Candidate* for the ministry, and you have served as *a teacher* of the Doctrines of the New Church; and you are now presenting *yourself* for inauguration into the priestly office of the Lord's New Church. Therefore let me ask:

Do you believe that the Lord in His providence has called you to serve in the priestly use?

ANSWER: I do.

BISHOP: Are you willing and ready to take upon *yourself* the duties and responsibilities of the office of minister in the priesthood of the New Church?

ANSWER: I am.

BISHOP: Will you now, before the Lord and in the presence of this congregation, declare your faith and make manifest your purpose in entering the first degree of the priestly office?

The Candidate(s) shall read his(their) confession of faith and declaration of purpose.

The Bishop shall then say to each Candidate:

Will you now be inaugurated into the priesthood of the New Church and ordained into the first degree thereof, that you may enter into the duties of this sacred office?

ANSWER: I will.

BISHOP: Let us pray.

ALL KNEELING, the Bishop shall offer a prayer.

ALL: Our Father, who art in the heavens, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven so upon the earth. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we also forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Matthew 6: 9-13

The Bishop and the People shall rise.

The Candidate(s) still kneeling, the Bishop shall lay on his hands and shall say to each Candidate:

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ I inaugurate you into the priestly office of His New Church, and ordain you into the first degree thereof. Jesus said, "Peace be to you: as the Father has sent Me, I also send you. Receive the Holy Spirit." *John 20: 21, 22*

The Bishop shall now fill the hand of each Candidate with a copy of one of the books of the Writings, and say:

This book is the coming of the Lord. Teach this truth and lead thereby to the good of life.

Placing the stole, the Bishop shall say to each Candidate:

By this sign it shall be known that you are furnished and prepared to perform the duties of the first degree of the priestly office.

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace. Amen. *Numbers 6: 24–26*

The Minister(s) rising, the Bishop may offer his hand and say:

You have been introduced into the priesthood of the New Church, and I now recognize and receive you as *a minister* of the General Church of the New Jerusalem.

The Bishop shall then say:

By this act of inauguration and ordination you are commissioned to go forth and preach the doctrines of the New Church, to lead in public worship, to administer the sacraments of baptism and the holy supper, to hear and receive confessions of faith; and so to teach people the way to heaven and lead them in it.

These powers have been conferred upon you by a representative act. They are with you from the Lord according to your exercise of them in keeping with Divine order and under the dictates of your own conscience. If your conscience is from the Word, the Lord Himself will be with you. He will gift you with spiritual enlightenment in your teaching, and with a zeal that will bring His blessings on your work and on yourself. Our earnest prayer is that this may be so.

May you go with the Lord wherever you go, and may His spirit of truth guide you into all truth. Amen.

268

The Second Degree

Addressing the Minister the Bishop shall say:

You have been inaugurated into the priesthood of the New Church and ordained into the first degree. You have served as a minister of the church; and now you are called and selected for the second or pastoral degree of the priesthood of the New Church, and have presented yourself for ordination into that degree. Therefore, let me ask:

Do you believe that this call and selection are of the Divine providence of the Lord?

ANSWER: I do.

BISHOP: Are you ready and willing to take upon yourself the duties and responsibilities of the office of pastor in the priesthood of the New Church?

ANSWER: I am.

BISHOP: Will you therefore before the Lord and in the presence of this congregation declare your faith and make manifest your purpose in entering the second degree of the priestly office?

The Minister shall read his confession of faith and declaration of purpose.

BISHOP: Will you now be ordained into the pastoral degree of the priesthood of the New Church, that you may enter upon the duties of that sacred office?

ANSWER: I will.

BISHOP: Let us pray.

ALL KNEELING, the Bishop shall offer a prayer.

ALL: Our Father, who art in the heavens, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven so upon the earth. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we also forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Matthew 6: 9–13

The Bishop and the People shall rise. The Minister still kneeling, the Bishop shall lay on his hands, and say:

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ I ordain you a priest in the New Church, in the second degree of the priesthood. Jesus said, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you. Receive the Holy Spirit."

John 20: 21–22

The Bishop, removing the former stole, and placing the new stole, shall say:

By this sign it shall be known that you are prepared to perform the duties pertaining to the second degree of the priesthood.

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace. Amen.

Numbers 6: 24–26

The Pastor rising, and the People being seated, the Bishop shall say:

In addition to the duties already conferred, you are by this act of ordination charged to officiate at betrothals, consecrate marriages, preside over a society or circle of the church, and so enter more fully into the use of teaching people the way to heaven, and of leading them in it.

The Bishop may then say:

You have been introduced into the second degree of the priesthood of the New Church; and now I recognize you as a Pastor in the General Church of the New Jerusalem.

In His Second Advent the Lord has opened His Word for all the people of the world to see. Seek and with diligence enter into the revealed truth that is there, and with the Lord's power and light spread it abroad among all people. For it is through this truth that the Lord leads His children to a life of spiritual use in His kingdom. It is in uses that the Lord Himself is present with His boundless love. In doing this work you will find your reward and receive the Lord's blessing.

May you go with the Lord wherever you go, and may His spirit of truth guide you into all truth. Amen.

269

The Third Degree

Addressing the Pastor the Bishop shall say:

You have been inaugurated and ordained into the first and second degrees of the priesthood, and have served as a minister and as a pastor of the church; and now you are called and selected for the episcopal degree of the priesthood of the New Church, and have presented yourself for ordination into that degree. Let me ask:

Do you believe that this call and selection are of the Divine providence of the Lord?

ANSWER: I do.

BISHOP: Are you ready and willing to take upon yourself the duties and responsibilities of the office of bishop in the priesthood of the New Church?

ANSWER: I am.

BISHOP: Will you before the Lord and in the presence of this congregation declare your faith and make manifest your purpose in entering the episcopal degree of the priestly office?

The Pastor shall read his confession of faith and declaration of purpose.

BISHOP: Will you now be ordained into the third or episcopal degree of the priesthood of the Lord's New Church, that you may enter more fully into the duties of this sacred office?

ANSWER: I will.

BISHOP: Let us pray.

ALL KNEELING, the Bishop shall offer a prayer.

ALL: Our Father, who art in the heavens, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven so upon the earth. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we also forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Matthew 6: 9-13

The PASTOR STILL KNEELING, the Bishop shall lay on his hands, and shall say:

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ I ordain you a priest of the New Church, into the third degree of the office of the priesthood. Jesus said, "As the Father has sent Me, I also send you. Receive the Holy Spirit."

John 20: 21, 22

The Bishop removing the former stole, and placing the new stole, shall say:

By this sign it shall be known that you are prepared to perform the duties of the third degree of the priestly office.

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace. Amen.

Numbers 6: 24–26

The Bishop rising, and the People being seated, the Officiating Bishop shall then say:

In addition to the duties already conferred you are by this act of ordination authorized to inaugurate and ordain men into the priesthood, to dedicate places of worship, and to preside over a general body of the church, and so to enter more fully into the uses of teaching people the way to heaven and of leading them in it.

The Officiating Bishop may then say:

You have been introduced into the third degree of the priesthood of the New Church, and I now recognize you as a bishop in the General Church of the New Jerusalem.

The Officiating Bishop shall extend his hand, and shall then say:

By this act of ordination you have assumed the responsibilities of a bishop of the church. The power to exercise them wisely is from the Lord through His Word. There is also implied a special trust in you on the part of the church. You will exercise these responsibilities and bear this trust in the name of the Lord, and in accord with your conscience, for the welfare of the church you serve. This will now be your use of charity among people as a priest and it will be your life's work, which you will perform in faithfulness and in obedience to the Lord's leading, looking in all things to Him, and to the salvation of souls.

May you go with the Lord wherever you go, and may His spirit of truth guide you into all truth. Amen.