



the chalice during the liturgy of the Eucharist at the 2009 Chrism Mass
 Mass the chrism and other oils are blessed by the bishop and the priests
 estly service.

I am especially grateful for the priests who serve in our parishes in these challenging and difficult times. While not perfect, as are none of us, we all seek to serve God's people in the name of the Lord. We bring to the priestly ministry all our warts and wrinkles and seek to pursue holiness as do all. In these days we find so many of our priests responsible for multiple parishes, and increased expectations, and all the challenges of life today in a secular society. I am deeply grateful to God for the gift that He has given us in the priesthood. In a personal way I am so grateful to God and the Church that I was called to the priesthood and to serve you as your Bishop. I was ordained in 1965 along with my classmates who also still serve this diocese: Fr. R. Louis Stasker, Fr. Paul Milanowski, Fr. George Fekete and Fr. Pedro Garcia. In retrospect, I would make the same commitment today as I did then. That is not to say that there have not been challenges and disappointments. It is a great privilege to be a priest – and in many ways as Cardinal Dearden once said “a life of high adventure”. Please continue to pray for your priests that we will be what God calls us to be. Please pray that others will come forward to continue the saving work of the Lord.

With good wishes,

Bishop Walter A. Hurley

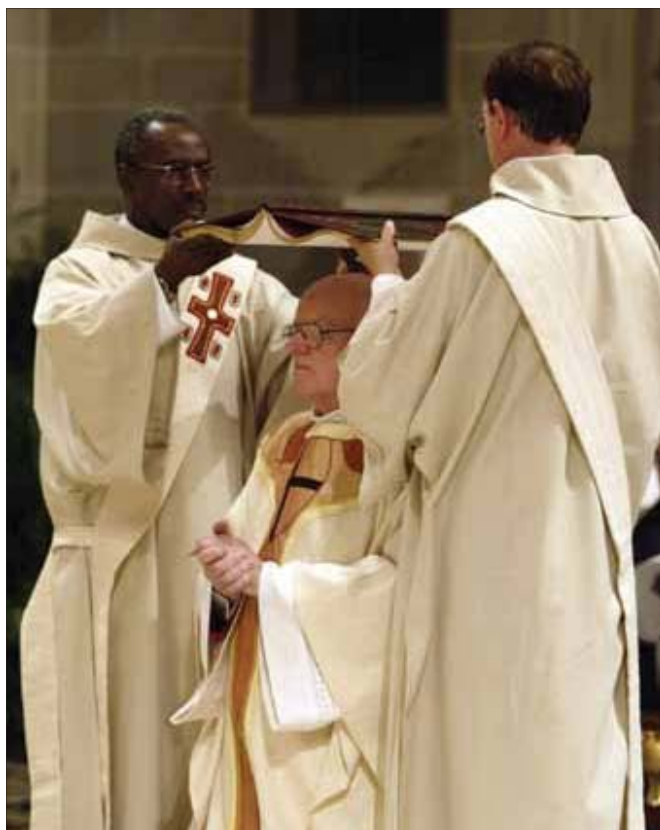
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y dear friends,

In June of this year our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI inaugurated the Year for Priests holding up the example of St. John Vianney the Curé of Ars as a dedicated and holy priest worthy of emulation in so many ways. One aspect of our diocesan celebration of the Year for Priests will be a gathering and Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Andrew on Tuesday, November 24 at 5:00 p.m. All are invited.

The purpose of this year is to encourage every priest to strive for that spiritual perfection upon which the effectiveness of their ministry depends. It is meant to help priests and, with them, all God's people to rediscover and reinforce that spiritual perfection on which the effectiveness of priestly ministry depends. It is meant to help priests and all of God's people to revive and strengthen their knowledge of the extraordinary, indispensable gift of grace which the ordained minister represents for those who have received it, for the whole Church, and for the world which would be lost without the Real Presence of Christ. (Pope Benedict XVI).

Christ is the great high priest and through baptism we all share in His ministry. As God's people we participate in the priesthood of Christ in two ways. There is the common priesthood of all the baptized and the ministerial priesthood of priests and bishops. For some there is the ministerial priesthood in the service of the common priesthood. The ministerial priesthood is one way that Christ builds up and leads His church.



>> As part of the ordination ceremony, a book of the Gospels is held over the head of Bishop Hurley while the prayer of ordination is said by Adam Cardinal Maida. The symbol of the open book is meant to remind the bishop that all his actions are under the shadow and scrutiny of God's Word.

from the bishop