

Diaconate Ordination
Closing Remarks
6/28/14

Yesterday, we celebrated the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the wondrous wound from which flow the water and blood that feeds the sacramental stream of the Church. My brother deacons, you have been consecrated with this living current of grace. Both the sacrament you have received as well as the ministry you will, from now on, provide is vitally connected to the wound of Christ's heart. By that wound we are healed. By his wound you will heal.

Remember the seminal moments of the diaconate spoken about in the Acts of the Apostles. The *diakonia* or charity of the deacons was for the sake of the *koinonia*, the communion of all believers. All charity, especially your charity, must build up the living communion of Christ's body, the Church. Christian charity in its truest sense is always a service at table, the one Eucharistic table to which the Sacred Heart of Jesus invites, "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest." (Mt. 11.28) Whether you serve in the classroom, the homeless shelter, a prison cell, hospital bedside, a home for expectant mothers, a soup line, or preparing groceries in a pantry, you are serving from the bountiful table of the Lord's cross. You must

seek to bring all God's children to taste and see the goodness of the Lord's Eucharist.

As we celebrate this marvelous sacramental charity given to you for the sake of the Church, may I now also honor the sacramental bonds of matrimony by which you and your wives you continue to give testimony to Christ's love for his Church. May his saving sacrifice always be reflected in the sacrifices you make for one another. The joyful cup of your married lives must brim over into the life of the Church. May this sacrament of Holy Orders inspire a greater sharing with the Church of the blessings the Lord has given both of you and your families.

My dear sisters in Christ, please accept these bouquets as a gesture of our admiration and gratitude.

My brothers, be assured of my prayers that what the Lord has begun in you, he may bring to completion in the blessed hope of his kingdom to come.