

What is Ordination?

Taken from *To Be a Christian: An Anglican Catechism*
By Anglican Church of North America

140. What is ordination?

Ordination is the laying on of the bishop's hands with prayer, which confirms the gifts and calling of the candidates, consecrates them, and grants them authority to serve Christ and his Church in the office to which they have been called.

(Isaiah 6:1–8; Luke 9:1; Acts 6:1–7; 13:1–3; 1 Timothy 3:1–13; 4:14; 5:22; Titus 1:5–9)

141. What grace does God give in ordination?

In ordination, God conveys the gift of the Holy Spirit for the office and work of the order being conferred.

(Numbers 27:12–23; Ephesians 4:7–16; 2 Timothy 1:6–7)

142. What are the three ordained ministries in the Anglican Church?

The three orders are bishops, priests, and deacons, which we have received from Scripture and the historic Church.

(Acts 6:1–7; 1 Timothy 3:1; 5:17–22; 2 Timothy 4:5; Titus 1:5; Ignatius of Antioch's Letter to the Trallians 2.1–3; 3.1–2)

143. What is the work of bishops?

Bishops represent and serve Christ and the Church as chief pastors, catechists, and missionaries in the tradition of the apostles. They are to confirm and ordain, and to guard the faith, unity, and discipline of the Church.

(Isaiah 61:1–11; John 20:19–23; 21:15–19; Acts 20:17–35; 1 Timothy 3:1–7; Titus 1:7–9; 1 Peter 5:1–5; Ignatius of Antioch's Letter to Polycarp 1.2–2.2)

144. What is the work of priests?

Serving Christ with their bishops, priests (or presbyters) nurture God's people through the ministry of Word and Sacrament and pronounce absolution and blessing in God's Name.

(Genesis 14:17–20; Psalm 132:8–18; Luke 10:1–9; John 10:1–16; Ephesians 4:7–13)

145. What is the work of deacons?

Serving Christ under their bishops, deacons care for those in need, assist in public worship, and instruct both young and old in the catechism.

(Deuteronomy 15:7–11; Psalm 119:1–8; Luke 12:35–40; Acts 6:1–7; 1 Timothy 3:8–13)