

**ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD
OF
JAYLORD MAGPUYO
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
OF OUR LADY
2017**

**Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,
As we celebrate the sacred rite of
Ordination to the Priesthood, we are
caught up in a profound and awesome
moment - a moment when eternity
breaks into our finite existence – a
moment when our humanness is caught
up into the divine.**

**At the moment of the Incarnation, God
united himself with the stuff of our
humanity. The majesty and glory of God**

is disclosed to us in a human life – in the flesh of Jesus Christ. He comes to share in our human life so that we might share his divine life.

It is at the moment of our Baptism that this sacred exchange becomes a reality in our own lives and we are called to live the life of heaven here on earth. We do so as members of the Lord's Body, the Church. She is called to continue his work on earth and to be an icon of his love and mercy to the whole world. We are his *holy people – a royal priesthood*, sharing in his mission and ministry.

Out of the priestly people of God, Jesus Christ, our great High Priest, chooses men

and sets them apart to serve God's people in his name as ordained priests. Just as Jesus was sent by the Father, so He sent the apostles into the world. Through them and their successors, the bishops, he continues his work of Teacher, Priest and Shepherd. Priests are co-workers with the bishops, called to serve God's people - icons of Christ to his Church and his *ambassadors* to the world.

Just as Mary was chosen by God to be the Mother of his Son and from the moment of her conception filled her with his grace for this momentous vocation, so, long ago, God called you, Jaylord, for himself. He has chosen you out of the people of God, *chosen you in Christ... for his own*

purposes. Like Mary, your whole journey of faith has enabled you to put yourself at God's disposal: *let what you have said be done to me.* Today He will fill you with his grace to enable you to serve his people in the sacred Order of priesthood. As a priest you will be the human minister of the divine things of God. In Jesus Christ, you will take the ordinary stuff of human life and invest it with the life and presence of God himself.

The essential elements that we see in the celebration of the Ordination Rite, seek to convey these great truths of our faith that go beyond any words we can use.

In a moment, Jaylord, you will be asked some solemn questions, about embracing

the priesthood. To each of them you will answer - *I am, with the help of God.* As a priest you will have to learn to constantly empty yourself in order to be filled with God's grace.

This can only happen when we grow in humility and learn to trust in God alone. In humility we learn that we are nothing without God. In trust we know, that in spite of all the other things we might have done with our lives, in the end we can only believe that we do not choose God. He chooses us.

That is why before the prayer of Consecration, you will prostrate yourself before God – you will abandon yourself to God's power and will, so that his

purpose may be worked out in you. This gift of yourself to God is supported by the prayers of the whole Church, on earth and in heaven – especially those of Mary, the mother and protector of priests and your own patron saints.

Then in silence, as the bishop, I will lay my hands on your head – this action will be followed by all the priests present. This ancient gesture calls down the very presence of God to this place and in to your life. In the tradition of the Apostles, the bishop hands on his authority to you and gives you a share in his priesthood.

The prayer of Consecration follows. In this one action you are conformed to the priesthood of Jesus Christ so that you can

exercise his authority to enable his people to conform their lives to the power of his risen life.

Then you will be clothed in the sacred vestments of priesthood. It is a reminder that not only are you being set apart for sacred duties but that you are now being enveloped in Jesus Christ himself. Your own human weaknesses and limitations are covered up by the self-offering of Jesus Christ on the Cross and by his faithfulness. *In persona Christi*, in the person of Christ, you will re-present this self-offering of Christ on the Cross – both at the altar when you offer the holy sacrifice of the Mass and as you go about your priestly work.

Next your hands will be anointed with the sacred oil of Chrism – the oil of Christ, the Anointed One. The anointing strengthens and empowers you to be a sign of Christ' Presence wherever you go. It identifies you with his sacred name – Christ, the Anointed One. It also calls you to be the healer – to bring together the broken parts of his Body the Church and of the world.

And last, the bread on the paten and the wine in the chalice are presented to you. They are the work of human hands made from God's creation. They are the signs of all that we are and all we hope to become. Today, for the first time, you will consecrate these gifts into the Body and Blood of Christ as you con-celebrate

with the Bishop. Then the Lord will nourish you and the people you serve on the pilgrimage of faith – food for our journey both here on earth, as we pass through the gate of death and in our ultimate encounter with God which is our resurrection.

Always reflect on the words said to you at this moment: *Know what you are doing and imitate the mystery you celebrate: model your life on the mystery of the Lord's Cross.*

May the silent language of this Sacrament overwhelm us and lift us up into the realms of eternity. Pray for Jaylord, our brother, that he may always remain close to Jesus Christ, our great

High Priest, so that filled anew with the Holy Spirit his life and ministry may become a powerful icon of the Lord's love and mercy to the Church.