

PRESBYTERAL ORDINATIONS IN THE CATHEDRAL

The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy of the Second Vatican Council called to our attention the role of the bishop in the diocesan church:

The bishop is to be considered as the High Priest of his flock from whom the life in Christ of his faithful is in some way derived and upon whom it in some way depends. Therefore, all should hold in the greatest esteem the liturgical life of the diocese centered around the bishop, especially in his cathedral church (SC #141).

Since the council, liturgists have urged that the cathedral be emphasized more and more as the focal point of the worship of the entire diocesan assembly. In line with this trend, many bishops are returning to the time-honored practice of holding presbyteral ordinations in the cathedral.

Consequently, it is the policy of the Diocese of Las Cruces to have the celebration of ordination to the diocesan priesthood in the cathedral. The diocesan priest shares in the ministry of the bishop and is ordained for the service of the people of the diocese. This will be emphasized by the very place of the ordination itself. As the families and friends of the ordained assemble at the Cathedral, they will experience the special character of this liturgy and sense their unity with the bishop and the entire diocesan family.