

CELEBRATING THE GIFT OF PRIESTHOOD
40th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood
Fr. Robert Lawrence Seeman
1979-2019

Forty years ago, I was ordained to the priesthood on the Feast of the Archangels, Michael, Raphael and Gabriel (September 29, 1979) And as I write this message, I am once again reminded of the Lord's invitation to be His messenger, to preach the Good News of Jesus Christ. On that beautiful fall morning, I processed down the center aisle of St. Paul Cathedral filled with family and friends gathered to witness the ancient rite of ordination. I can recall that solemn moment of prayer, the imposition of hands upon my head and the anointing of my hands with sacred chrism. While in the background, I could hear the echoing words, "***you are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.***" These past forty years have been filled with many more blessings of ministry than I could have ever imagined on ordination day. I am so grateful to the people of God in the Parishes/Campus Ministry programs where I had the privilege to serve. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all who have journeyed with me in the course of these forty years, for their words of encouragement, kindness and understanding. Today as a Church, we are faced with many challenges. The road is not an easy one. But we are not without hope and the triumph of God's abiding grace will guide our hearts to the healing and mercy that flows from the very heart of Jesus the Good Shepherd. When things get difficult, I also look to Our Blessed Mother who embraced those moments in her life with total trust in God.

As I celebrate 40 years of ordained ministry as a Priest, I ask only one thing, that you continue to keep all those who love and serve the Church as Bishops, Priests, Deacons, and those in Consecrated Life in your prayers.

"You have been told what is good,
And what the Lord requires of you:
Only to do the right and to love goodness,
And to walk humbly with God"
—Micah 6:8

Prayer of Thanksgiving

"We praise you and we thank you, O God: all the earth adores you.
We, your ministers, with the voices of the prophets and the chorus of the Apostles,
proclaim you as Father and Lord of life,
of every form of life which comes from you alone.
"We recognize you, O Most Holy Trinity, as the birthplace and beginning of our vocation;
You, the Father, from eternity have thought of us,
wanted us and loved us; You, the Son, have chosen us and
called us to share in your unique and eternal priesthood;
You, the Holy Spirit, have filled us with your gifts and have consecrated us with your holy anointing.
You, the Lord of time and history, have placed us here,
in order to be witnesses to the salvation which you have accomplished for all humanity.
And you, Mary, Mother of Christ, who at the foot of the Cross accepted us
as beloved sons with the Apostle John,
continue to watch over our vocation. To you we entrust the years of ministry
which Providence will grant us yet to live.
Be near us to guide us along the paths of the world, to meet the men and women
whom your Son redeemed with his blood.
Help us to fulfill completely the will of Jesus, born of you for the salvation of humanity.
O Christ, you are our hope!"
—Pope St. John Paul II



"The Saints did not all begin well,
But they all ended well."
St. John Vianney, Patron of Priests
Pray for us