Draw near, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, author of human dignity and bestower of all graces, through whom all things progress, through whom everything is made firm, who, by the power of the Holy Spirit, in order to form a priestly people, establish among them ministers of Christ your Son in various orders. Already in the earlier covenant there arose offices instituted by mystical rites: so that when you had set Moses and Aaron over your people to govern and sanctify them, you chose men next in order and dignity to join them and assist them in their work. Thus in the desert, you instilled the spirit of Moses in the minds of seventy wise men; with them as helpers he more easily governed your people. So too, over the sons of Aaron
you poured an abundant share of their father's fullness, that the num-
ber of priests prescribed by the Law might be sufficient for the sacri-
fices of the tabernacle, which were a shadow of the good things
to come. But in these last days, holy Father, you sent your Son in-
to the world, Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our con-
fession. Through the Holy Spirit, he offered himself unblemished
to you and made his Apostles, who were consecrated in the truth,
sharers in his mission; to them you added companions to pro-
claim and carry out the work of salvation through all the world.

Now, we pray, O Lord, provide also for our weakness these helpers
whom we need for the exercise of the Apostolic Priesthood.
Grant, we pray, almighty Father, to these your servants the dignity of the Priesthood; renew deep within them the Spirit of holiness; may they hold the office second in order, received from you, O God, and by the example of their manner of life may they inspire right conduct.

May they be trustworthy co-workers with our Order, so that by their preaching and through the grace of the Holy Spirit, the words of the Gospel may bear fruit in human hearts and reach even to the ends of the earth. Together with us, may they be faithful stewards of your mysteries, so that your people may be renewed through the cleansing waters of rebirth and refreshed from your altar, so that sinners may be reconciled and the sick raised up. May they be joined to us, Lord, in imploring your mercy for the people entrusted to them.
and for the whole world. Thus, may the full number of the nations,
gathered together in Christ, become your one people, brought to
perfection in your Kingdom. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your
Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. Amen.