THE ORDINATION OF DEACONS

Prayer of Ordination of Deacons

(Chapter III, no. 207)

Draw near, we pray, almighty God, giver of every grace, who appointment every order and assign every office. While remaining unchanged, you make all things new and, setting all things in order with everlasting providence, you make due provision for every age, through your Word, your Power, and your Wisdom, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. You grant that your Church, his Body, adorned with manifold heavenly graces, drawn together in the diversity of her members, and united by a wondrous bond through the Holy Spirit, should grow and spread forth to build up a new temple. As once you chose the sons of Levi to minister in the former tabernacle, so now you establish three ranks of ministers in their sacred offices to serve your name. Thus, in the first days of your Church, your Son’s Apostles, led by the Holy Spirit,
appointed seven men of good repute to help them in the daily
ministry, so that they might devote themselves more fully to prayer
and the preaching of the word. By prayer and the laying on of
hands they entrusted to these chosen men the ministry of serving
at table. Look favorably also on these your servants, we pray,
O Lord, whom we humbly dedicate to serve at your holy altars
in the office of the Deaconate.

Send forth the Holy Spirit upon them, O Lord, we pray, that they
may be strengthened by the gift of your seven-fold grace to carry
out faithfully the work of the ministry.

May every evangelical virtue abound in them: unfeigned love, con-
cern for the sick and the poor, unassuming authority, the purity
of innocence, and the observance of spiritual discipline.
May your precepts shine forth in their conduct, that by the example of their manner of life they may inspire the imitation of your holy people. In offering the witness of a good conscience, may they remain firm and steadfast in Christ, so that, imitating your Son on earth, who came not to be served but to serve, they may be found worthy to reign with him in heaven. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

All:

A-men.