

**Sunday we read in The Acts of the Apostles that the church was growing: and by the “laying on of hands” we have our 1st Deacons to help the priests focus on offering the Sacraments and, “most importantly,” The Sacrifice of the Holy Mass.**

**But Bishop Barron reminded me to “Check out the last line in “Acts” / *The word of God continued to spread, and the number of the disciples in Jerusalem increased greatly; even a large group of priests were becoming obedient to the faith.* PRIESTS HMMMMMMMM.**

**A Jew (during the time right after Jesus) would have noticed this line immediately / Because they understood the essential importance of a Priesthood to offer Sacrifice.**

**And St. Peter reminds us in today’s Epistle: *You are “a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his own, so that you may announce the praises” of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.***

**-My sister once stated: you guys are a continuation of Judaism / I said yes, and as a Jewish / Catholic convert once said to me: “As a Catholic I am now a Completed Jew in Jesus Christ.”**

**At our Baptism(s) we were anointed Priest, Prophet, and King / Your lay priesthood role is to be witnesses of Jesus in the world / in your Family / in the Workplace / In the Community / You are to be the light / To bring Ethics and Virtue into all of these places.**

**At the end of Mass we say: “Go forth, The Mass has ended” - As your Priest “I send you out into the world after every Mass. And as I feed you Sacramentally, govern, teach, and Sanctify you in “Persona Christi Capitis”. As your Priest I cannot be everywhere that you go, so you are my witnesses in the world as Lay Priests.**

**When we exercise our Priesthood (Lay, and Ordained) via our Baptisms we are connected to the Priesthood of the Apostles, and through “Apostolic Succession” and the laying on of hands from Jesus, to Peter and the Apostles (who planted the early churches in the world recorded in Bible) / We and (Infant of Prague) are connected with the early Churches founded by the Apostles. And through Apostolic Succession my Priesthood is traced back to Peter and Jesus, through Bishop Burbidge, who Laid his**

**Hands on me. For Bishop Burbidge can trace his ordination back to St. Peter, our first Pope. Every one of you are connected to Peter and Jesus by the Priests and Bishops that have laid hands on you.**

**And as I feed you Sacramentally, you are to be strengthened to live out your Lay Priesthood as you go out into the world as a member of the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church of Jesus Christ.**

**And “What is our primary first act as Lay and Ordained Priests: “TO OFFER “SACRIFICE” AS THE CHURCH HAS DONE FOR 2000 YEARS.**

**I employ you today to live out your Priesthood by offering Sacrifice. For me as an Ordained Priest: My primary responsibility before all other responsibilities at IOP, whether teaching, governing, or Sanctifying, is to OFFER THE SACRIFICE OF THE HOLY MASS for your salvation and the salvation of the world.**

**Your primary responsibility “as a Lay Priest” is to offer your life in sacrifice to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit when attending Mass. And when you are able “in Grace” to receive the Eucharist - say: “I offer my body, my suffering, and my life in union with the Perfect Sacrifice of Jesus for His Body, The Church, and for the Salvation of the world”.**

**Father, may we at IOP (Infant of Prague) offer ourselves and our lives as a living Sacrifice to spread the Gospel of the Church that Jesus founded through the Apostles. THIS IS THE WORK OF JESUS MENTIONED IN TODAY’S GOSPEL.**

**Vivat Jesus  
Father Vic Gournas**