

## **Sacramental quality of Christ's priesthood**

### **Summary**

The preceding article addresses issues of sacramental quality of priesthood. The foregoing analysis suggests that the three degrees of holy orders are not three separate sacraments – but one. Triple degree structure of hierarchical priesthood implies no difference between bishops, presbyters and deacons as to the essence of holy orders. There is only the difference of degree. The person ordained receives the respective degrees of holy orders through the Holy Spirit. This very Spirit leaves an indelible stamp on an ordained man. The triple degree character of orders within the sacramental unity is best demonstrated in the triple function of Christ, who fulfills it Himself as the Priest. Through participation in the prophetic, priestly and pastoral rank of their Master, the ordained are sent by Him to render specific services in order to serve the believers.