

Remarks offered at the conclusion of the Priesthood Ordinations  
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Pope Benedict in his very first encyclical spoke of the intrinsic unity between the Eucharist and the Christian Life. He said the following, “A Eucharist which does not pass over into the concrete practice of love is intrinsically fragmented.” *“Una Eucaristía que no comporte un ejercicio práctico del amor es fragmentaria en sí misma.”* (DCE, n.14) The disciple who shares in the extreme charity of the sacrifice of the Mass is compelled, commissioned to make charity one’s daily offering.

For the ordained priest this mission is even more essential because of one’s role *in persona Christi*, acting in the person of Jesus. Your life must harmonize with the mysteries you celebrate. This intimate association with the high priest, Jesus Christ, and his one saving mystery offered at every Eucharist makes it just as true to say that a priesthood which does not pass over into the concrete practice of love is intrinsically fragmented. *Un sacerdocio que no comporte un ejercicio práctico del amor es fragmentario en sí mismo.*

My dear brothers, Fr. Andres, Fr. Edgardo, and Fr. Joshua, you bring joy and hope to the fraternal company of your brother priests. Join with us in the abiding endeavor to live in harmony with the sacred mysteries entrusted to us. *Acompañennos en la tarea continua de armonizarnos a los misterios sagrados encomendados a*

nosotros. Together with us, may you always imitate what you celebrate.

Remember to be a pastor of communities, not just the presider at ceremonies. Make it a joyful duty to gladly greet the faithful before and after every Sunday Mass whether you are assigned to the Mass or not.

May the homeless and forsaken know your name and you know theirs. May the poor always seek you out by name.

Be a frequent friend to those who are imprisoned, a common companion to those who are infirmed, and a hopeful pilgrim for those who are dying.

May children and the young learn from you and regularly find in you an image of the Good Shepherd.

Lean near to those who are suffering. Wait patiently for those who are searching. Heal those who are hurting.

Remember to pray for those you serve. Evermore united to Christ, may your service be an answer to their prayers.

Whenever this mission weighs heavy upon you, take to heart another simple insight of Pope Benedict, "Love can be 'commanded' because it has first been given." "El amor puede ser 'mandado' porque antes es dado." (DCE, n. 14) Return always to this Eucharistic altar. Let the mysteries you administer, minister to you.

Congratulations! Ad multos annos!