Qualities for a Priest

From Bishop Nicholas:

- Faith in Jesus Christ and a call to proclaim the Gospel
- Compassion for others, and for oneself.
- Consistent, demonstrated provision of emotional safety, compassion, and healthy boundaries
- A demonstrated ability to lead and a history of doing so
- A capacity for problem solving
- A gift for gathering people in community and setting them to a common purpose.
- Intellectual curiosity.
- Demonstrated emotional self-regulation. (Temperance)
- Resilience

From *The Book of Common Prayer* ordination vows (see bolded text):

- Willingness to obey the teachings of the Church and the authority of the Bishop
- Commitment to shared leadership and work on behalf of others
- Dedication to a lifelong study of the Bible, prayer, and to living a life that demonstrates the Christian faith
- Ability to love and serve all of those among whom you work and live and to teach them to know and love God and each other.

The Ordination of a Priest BCP p. 526-532

Will you be loyal to the doctrine, discipline, and worship of Christ as this Church has received them? And will you, in accordance with the canons of this Church**, obey your bishop and other ministers who may have authority over you and your work?**

Answer

I am willing and ready to do so; and I solemnly declare that I do believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God, and to contain all things necessary to salvation; and **I do solemnly engage to conform to the doctrine, discipline, and worship of The Episcopal Church.**

My *brother*, the Church is the family of God, the body of Christ, and the temple of the Holy Spirit. All baptized people are called to make Christ known as Savior and Lord, and to share in the renewing of his world. Now you are called to **work as pastor, priest, and teacher, together with your bishop and fellow presbyters, and to take your share in the councils of the Church.**

As a priest, it will be your task to **proclaim by word and deed the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to fashion your life in accordance with its precepts. You are to love and serve the people among whom you work, caring alike for young and old, strong and weak, rich and poor. You are to preach, to declare God's forgiveness to penitent sinners, to pronounce God's blessing, to share in the administration of Holy Baptism and in the celebration of the mysteries of Christ's Body and Blood, and to perform the other ministrations entrusted to you.**

In all that you do, you are to **nourish Christ's people** from the riches of his grace, and **strengthen them to glorify God** in this life and in the life to come.

My *brother*, do you believe that you are truly called by God and his Church to this priesthood?

Answer I believe I am so called.

Bishop Do you now in the presence of the Church commit yourself to this trust and responsibility?

Answer I do.

Bishop **Will you respect and be guided by the pastoral direction and leadership of your bishop?**

Answer I will.

Bishop Will you be **diligent in the reading and study of the Holy Scriptures, and in seeking the knowledge of such things as may make you a stronger and more able minister of Christ?**

Answer I will.

Bishop Will you endeavor so **to minister the Word of God and the sacraments of the New Covenant**, that the reconciling love of Christ may be known and received?

Answer I will.

Bishop Will you **undertake to be a faithful pastor to all whom you are called to serve, laboring together with them and with your fellow ministers** to build up the family of God?

Answer I will.

Bishop Will you do your best **to pattern your life [and that of your family, *or* household, *or* community] in accordance with the teachings of Christ**, so that you may be a wholesome example to your people?

Answer I will.

Bishop Will you **persevere in prayer**, both in public and in private, asking God's grace, both for yourself and for others, offering all your labors to God, through the mediation of Jesus Christ, and in the sanctification of the Holy Spirit?

Answer I will.

From the House of Bishops 2026

House of Bishops list of gifts for ordination Spring 2026

1. Obedience
2. Faithful
3. Preach the Gospel
4. Teach
5. Wholesome Example
6. Humility
7. Sacrifice
8. Prayer