

CONCLUSION OF DIACONATE ORDINATION HOMILY

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St. Joseph Seminary

November 3, 2018

Brothers, just last Thursday November 1st, we celebrated All Saints Day.

As you approach the Throne of Grace with boldness and humility on this the day of your Ordination to the Diaconate, may you also embrace your baptismal call to heroic holiness and the paschal mystery logic of this beautiful vocation Christ has given you.

May the Word of God be a Light and Lamp for every step of your Vocation. May your lives, ministry and commitment to holiness and mission be an expression of Christ's light streaming off the many biblical passages and Eucharistic Prayers you have prayed, contemplated and lived.

May the Great Biblical Saints (such as Sts. Peter and Paul, Sts. Matthew Mark, Luke and John), the Saints who inspire young people (such as Bl. Pier Giorgio Frassati, Bl. Frederic Ozanam, St. Katharine Drexel), the Saints who light the World with Catholic theology and the Splendor of Truth (such as St. Augustine, St. Thomas Aquinas, Bl. John Henry Cardinal Newman, St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross), the Married Saints who have transformed the World and History in the Sacrament of Marriage and Family Life (such as Saints Louis and Zelig Martin, the parents of St. Terese of Lisieux), the great Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy Saints (such as St. Martin de Porres, St. Vincent de Paul, St. Damien of Molokai, and St. Teresa of Calcutta), the great Priest Saints (such Sts. John Vianney and St. Pierre Julian Eymard, St. Padre Pio and St. John Neumann), the Great Martyr Saints (such as St. Agnes, St. Thomas More, St. John Fisher and St. Maximilian Kolbe), the great Pope Saints (such as St. Pius X, St. John XXIII and St. John Paul II), the great

Deacon saints (such as St. Stephen, St. Philip, St. Lawrence and St. Ephrem) – may all these saints in union with the Queen of Saints inspire you and intercede for you today and every day.

Brothers, today I would like to thank and congratulate your parents and your families, your Bishops, your diocesan and parish families, and Msgr. Vaccari, your Rector, and the Formators, Faculty and Staff here at St. Joseph Seminary and the other seminaries and universities that have been part of your formation.

Amidst the signs, symbols and mystery of this beautiful liturgy this morning, together, we approach the Throne of Grace boldly for a new, bold and rich harvest of holy Vocations to the priesthood and we ask the newly canonized saints, St. Paul VI and St. Oscar Romero, to intercede for us and this intention.

Mary, Queen of Saints and Mother of the Church, pray for us!

St. Paul VI, pray for us!

St. Oscar Romero, pray for us!