

CLERGY TRAINING COURSE

by

The Rev. Bruce G. Kingsley, Ph.D.

Foreword

by

The Rt. Rev. Charles Hampton

FOREWORD

The Liberal Catholic Church has at present no college for the training of her priests. Such institutions are the growth of years, and have to be built and supported with the expenditure of considerable sums of money. A committee of the Provincial Clerical Synod has undertaken a study of Clergy Culture and Education, but again it will take time to work out a standard which is generally satisfactory and which will command the respect of the world. For example, since the Liberal Catholic approach to the Christian Religion is theosophical rather than primarily theological, it will take months of discussion as to what is of value and what is not worth studying in the field of Theology. The descriptive word "theosophical" means knowledge of God by direct perception, a phrase itself demanding vast elaboration, but which we cannot discuss further in a mere foreword. Theology, on the other hand, does not mean as the dictionary puts it, the science of God, but rather the speculation of men's minds about God, since in Christendom there are three hundred and four theologies, and in Hinduism over six hundred.

Religion should be a matter of first hand experience rather than giving out at second or fourth hand the opinions of dead theologians; yet the priest should know something of the 304 theologies of Christendom in order to be able to meet all men on their own ground. Again, a man's prayers and preaching will reflect his conception of God. A God who has to be pleaded with, implored, begged or urged to change from anger to gentleness and love, has no place in the Liberal Catholic mind. Consequently, any prayers, psalms or hymns based on such a false conception would scarcely be worth studying or using, except as a study of the primitive minds of men.

The preface to our Liturgy should be read and re-read since the conceptions of God there mentioned, in contrast to our own, are still current in nearly all existing churches in crude or refined form. The liberal Catholic Church exists, for one reason, because it rejects many of the mis-called "Christian" teachings of the established churches. One who wishes to cling to such ideas might not be happy in the Liberal Catholic Church, although he may be a member in good standing. Usually, those who do not honestly accept our Statement of Principles, attempt to change or modify those principles; but this they cannot do. We might paraphrase a sentence from the Methodist Discipline: "And do not change our principles but uphold them."

Dr. Bruce Gordon Kingsley, one of our priests, has worked out, with my collaboration, a tentative course of self-training for candidates for Orders, which follows the natural sequence of the Minor Orders, which in turn are based upon the natural constitution of man -- physical, emotional, mental, the will and the soul. The higher orders involve a still more strenuous training wherein the priest is taught how to exercise his inner powers in his actual sacerdotal work. A mere hint of this is given in the following outline.

This present outline course of self-training is not intended to take the place of a college education, or of any future course of seminary studies. It will give the candidate a fuller understanding of our Statement of Principles, Summary of Doctrine, and Liturgy. No candidate would be intellectually or spiritually honest who accepted any of the Minor or Major Orders without first whole-heartedly accepting our Statement of Principles. To accept these underlying principles, it is necessary to

study, and to meditate upon what we study. The outline that follows will give the guidance necessary. Clergy are asked to put this course of study before all candidates and to help them understand the terms used, until such time as it is possible to translate the various theosophical or neo-Platonic terms into modern Christian terminology; for we must remember that the Liberal Catholic Church has much in common with the neo-Platonic philosophy as it is so clearly set forth in the Statement of Principles.

Text books giving this neo-Platonic approach to Christianity are the great need of the Church, but it is obviously too young a movement to have produced its own text books. In all universities, the production of text books is a never ending process, since what passes for science today must often be cast aside tomorrow as obsolete. The man who earned a university degree, -- let us say in Psychology -- ten years ago, and who has not kept up to date, has a degree that means very little. So it is with Doctors of Divinity from the Roman, Baptist, Methodist, and other seminaries. It mostly means that he has received training (not always education) at a denominational institution, behind sectarian walls that shut out wider knowledge. This is especially true of many of the men and women calling themselves "Doctor" in the United States.

There is no logical reason why mid-Victorian theology should hold the field today against more advanced conceptions of evolution, man and God, or that degrees bestowed in the name of Theology should be given too much respect. The Liberal Catholic Church must work out its own standards, which should be high, embracing a knowledge of world culture, all religions, philosophies and science. In the meantime we may well begin with the training and control of the human instrument, the personality, as outlined in the following course of study.

+ CHARLES HAMPTON
 Regionary Bishop for the
 United States and Canada.

Los Angeles,
 Ascension,
 1941.

THE PATH TO THE PRIESTHOOD

-by-

The Rev. Bruce Gordon Kingsley

Ph. D., Mus. D.

You are seeking admission to Holy Orders in our Liberal Catholic Church. This step is so serious that none should contemplate it without realizing all that is entailed. For it holds out the opportunity and also the obligation to enter upon a new life which, if followed with constant loyalty, zeal, unselfishness and understanding, should lead to the feet of our Lord Christ Himself, so that, in however humble a way, the aspirant may become an outpost of His consciousness and a dispenser of His blessings far and wide. The world stands in need of faithful, consecrated servants of the Master who can feed the hungry with the bread of the higher wisdom, bestow the sacramental gifts, advance the spirituality of mankind, and lead the afflicted from earthly sorrow and pain to the vale of rest and joy where dwells in utter fulness that love of God which, like the peace of God, passeth understanding.

But to accomplish these far-reaching possibilities a period of training, intense and unremitting, is eminently necessary. Nothing should, and nothing can, stand in the way, provided that the seeker be sufficiently one-pointed in his determination to overcome all obstacles. "The daily round, the common task," -- everything, small or great, -- if done with perfection and loyalty, can be made a stepping-stone to our final achievement. Each person we meet may be looked upon as an opportunity for the giving forth of that love which, as representatives of the Master, should ever fill our hearts. With this method of life always followed, and coupled with the necessary knowledge, we are bound to succeed, and ultimately to become ourselves Christs in miniature.

Knowledge, yes, that too must be ours if we are to lead our flocks aright. A great Teacher has remarked, "All knowledge is useful, and one day you will have all knowledge; but while you have only part, take care that it is the most useful part. God is Wisdom as well as Love; and the more wisdom you have, the more you can manifest of Him. Study then, but study first that which will most help you to help others."

With these wise words in mind we have selected a set of books which, as a preliminary, will be well worth studying in preparation for the ordinations in our Church. Other literature may be added from time to time, but these books at least will form a solid basis, and they should if possible be in the library of every one of our clergy. Their purchase will involve a considerable expense, but it is taken for granted that those who wish to devote their lives to the service of Christ's Church expect to make a good many sacrifices of money, time and strength.

The works to be used may be divided into three categories:-

- (1) Books to be read carefully;
- (2) Books to be studied in minute detail, so that the student may be able to pass an examination in their contents and in the inferences arising from them;

- (3) Books to be used as guides to inner life and spiritual unfoldment.

The books in Class (1) may be borrowed from a library, if the student cannot purchase them. An effort will be made to establish a Church lending library from which they may be borrowed. Books in Class (2) and (3) should be purchased for the student's own personal library. A catalog of the books and pamphlets for study, with prices and ordering information, is given at the end of this outline.

It is hardly necessary to state that it is an essential preliminary for anyone seeking Holy Orders in the Liberal Catholic Church, to carefully study the "Statement of Principles and Summary to Doctrine" and the "Liturgy" -- especially the preface -- to assure himself that he can honestly accept and teach the fundamental teachings therein set forth. These two documents must therefore form the starting point in his study.

THE LIBERAL CATHOLIC ORDERS

The ordinations existing in our Church, which have been handed down unbroken from the earliest times, are divided into two groups. First come the Minor Orders, later the Major Orders. At the head of each division is what may be looked upon as a preliminary step.

MINOR ORDERS

Preliminary step: Cleric

1. Doorkeeper
2. Reader
3. Exorcist
4. Acolyte

MAJOR ORDERS

Preliminary step: Subdeacon

1. Deacon
2. Priest
3. Bishop

Before receiving each ordination the candidate is required to study most carefully the remarks pertaining to it both in the Liturgy of the Liberal Catholic Church and also in the monumental work, "The Science of the Sacraments," by our late Presiding Bishop, C. W. Leadbeater. Especially should he study the Charges given in the several Orders, for these show forth the character work which should engage the individual in each Order, and the unfoldment of which it is one aim of this course to forward.

THE MINOR ORDERS

- THE ORDER OF CLERIC -

This should mark the beginning of a definite dedication to the higher life. The ordinand is expected to have broken away from the enticements of earth. While still in the world, he should not be of the world.

To prepare for this ordination we start from solid bedrock and there-

for undertake the control of the lowest manifestation, the physical body, which anchors us to earth. All artificiality must be avoided, - awkward gestures, strange mannerisms, slovenly habits, exaggerated statements. And in their place should arise a dignity and charm, a beauty of movement and speech -- characteristics of the true spiritual nobleman.

This is the time to practice a careful purification of the physical system, if this has not already been commenced. Nothing coarse, unclean or poisonous should enter the body which has been called the temple of the Holy Ghost. Therefore how could a self-respecting Cleric poison his body with stupifying drugs, tobacco, alcohol, or the flesh of dead animals? One would think such habits to be impossible for any person of finer type. Clearly they are out of keeping for a consecrated man of God. How can a faithful follower of the Lord of Love disregard the command: "Thou shalt not kill", and debase himself by eating the corpse of a murdered animal brother and then enter the presence of the blessed Master of Compassion with a lie in his heart and with hands besmeared with blood?

The following books are to be used in preparation for this Order of Cleric:

CLERIC -- Physical --

(1) For Careful Reading:

The Hidden Side of Things, by C.W. Leadbeater.

Chapters 1 & 2 Introductory

Chapter 3 Planets

Chapter 4 The Sun

Chapter 5 Natural Surroundings

Chapter 8 Ceremonies

Chapter 9 Sounds

Chapter 14 Our Habits

Chapter 15 Physical Environment

Some Glimpses of Occultism, by C.W. Leadbeater.

Chapter on Vegetarianism.

Ways to Perfect Health, by Irving S. Cooper.

A continual guide to

physical well-being.

(2) For Detailed Study:

An Outline of Theosophy, by C.W. Leadbeater.

Ceremonies of the Liberal Catholic Rite,

by Irving S. Cooper.

Part 1. The Sanctuary, etc.

Part 2 (A ppendix) The Server at Mass.

(3) For Spiritual Unfoldment (Daily Reading & Meditation):

At the Feet of the Master, by J. Krishnamurti.

- THE ORDER OF DOORKEEPER -

The training of the emotions is the special duty of the Doorkeeper. This is something far more than a mere prevention of those emotions which are undesirable. It is a definite, positive, fanning into flame of the higher feelings, so that they shall form a constant background to the nature, ever ready to spring into action when the energies of the man are released from other occupations. It will be noted that all the finer emotions lead to love. This may be the love for those more advanced than ourselves, -- love for the blessed Christ, for the Master-Saints, for the Holy Angels, -- a love returned by Them with added richness immediately it is offered. It may be love for our fellow travellers on life's pathway, -- our family, our friends, our chance acquaintances, our brethren in other lands and climes. It may be love for those at present lower than we in the great march back to God, -- love for our younger brothers, the animals, the plants, even the things of the mineral kingdom -- the objects which we use, since they, too, have life which is seeking to transcend those rigid encasements and reach a wider freedom. Think what it will mean if this all-embracing love so fills our hearts that everything, from the highest to the lowest, is included within its mighty span!

A remarkable investment, indeed, is Love. It adds to the love nature of both the giver and the receiver. It binds more firmly the precious link of love which should unite the worlds. Whenever a truly unselfish love is felt it blesses all Nature, raising it an infinitesimal degree on its upward journey.

Here is a list of books useful in preparation for the Order of Doorkeeper:

DOORKEEPER -- Emotional --

(1) For Careful Reading:

The Hidden Side of Things,
 Chapter 10 Public Opinion
 Chapter 17 Our Amusements
 Chapter 18 What We Are
 Chapter 23 Our Relations to Lower Kingdoms

Some Glimpses of Occultism
 (Remainder of the book)

The Inner Life, by C. W. Leadbeater.

(2) For Detailed Study:

A Textbook of Theosophy, by C.W. Leadbeater.

Ceremonies of the Liberal Catholic Rite,
 Part II - The Holy Eucharist.

(3) For Spiritual Unfoldment (Daily Reading & Meditation)

I Promise, by C. Jinarajadasa.
 In His Name, by C. Jinarajadasa.
 The Consecrated Life, by Clara Codd

- THE ORDER OF READER -

For this Order the training of the mind is the especial obligation. How truly does that great Hindu scripture, the Bhagavad Gita, speak of this unruly member, the mind, as "hard to curb as the wind." But by constant practice it can be done.

As soon as we commence our efforts at mental concentration, there comes the realization that this wandering mind is not our real self. It is a gift from God bestowed upon us for use in the helping of our fellows. A dull, feeble mind is not nearly so valuable for this purpose as a keen, efficient mind. No thoughts should ever pass through our mind which are not true, kind and helpful. By communicating perfectly the results of our studies to others, we may so inspire them that they also will develop their minds to fuller expression and so give out the Wisdom to ever-widening groups of people. And so an endless chain may be built which in results for good can long outlive our earthly usefulness and influence generations yet unborn.

Appropriate books to be used in preparation for this Order of Reader are as follows:

READER -- Mental --

(1) For Careful Reading:

The Hidden Side of Things,
 Chapter 16 Mental Conditions
 Chapter 19 What We Think
 Chapter 21 Collective Thought

Thought Forms, by Dr. A. Besant and C.W. Leadbeater.

(2) For Detailed Study:

Concentration: A Practical Course,
 by Ernest Wood.
 (Practice the exercises given therein)

Ceremonies of the Liberal Catholic Rite,
 Part III, Other Services and Offices.

(3) For Spiritual Unfoldment:

Meditation for Beginners, by J.I. Wedgwood.
 (For practice use the previous books.)

Note: During this period of preparation, the candidate for Reader should make certain that he is able to read aloud clearly and beautifully -- a thing few people can really do. Get a good school teacher to give some private tutoring evenings. In most cities one can find a recording studio which will make a "transcription" record of one's voice for about two dollars. When one feels that one has attained suitable proficiency in reading, such a record should be made, and one can learn a great deal from it in regard to peculiarities of enunciation, tone of voice, clarity, etc.

Reading books, magazines, etc. aloud to someone in the home is excellent practice, and should be done frequently. One who is to minister to the public cannot be too careful in these matters. The Church will be judged by its ministers. Their culture and education will be judged very largely by their speech.

If one can afford the cost (about \$60) a small, home-recording outfit with microphone is a great help. Larger churches should have these for use in training their clergy, as well as for other purposes.

APPENDIX

Catalog and Price List of Recommended Books

NOTE: This list is divided into two sections; Class (1) are books for "careful reading" and may be borrowed or read at a library. However, it is highly recommended that the prospective Priest obtain as many of them as possible as a nucleus for his future parish library. Class (2) and (3) are books for detailed study and meditation, and should if at all possible be owned by the student.

It is probable that all the books listed can be obtained through the St. Alban Press. In the list the approximate prices are given. Publishers are shown by initials in brackets, (S.A.P.) indicating the St. Alban Press, (T.P.) the Theosophical Press, (T.P.H.) the Theosophical Publishing House. Other publishers are given in full.

Concerning the authors, it should be noted that the J.I. Wedgwood listed is our first Presiding Bishop, C.W. Leadbeater the second, and F.W. Pigott the third and present. I.S. Couper is our late Regionary, Geoffrey Hodson is a Priest, Dr. Annie Besant was, and Mr. C. Jinarajadasa is, a great friend of the L.C.C., as also Prof. Ernest Wood.

CLASS (1) BOOK LIST

The Hidden Side of Things - - - - -	C.W. Leadbeater	(T.P.)	\$4.00
Some Glimpses of Occultism - - - - -	" " "	"	1.75
The Inner Life - - - - -	" " "	"	5.00
Invisible Helpers - - - - -	" " "	"	1.75
Dreams: What They Are and How They are Caused - - - - -	" " "	"	.75
Man Visible and Invisible - - - - -	" " "	"	5.00
Clairvoyance - - - - -	" " "	"	1.75
The Other Side of Death - - - - -	" " "	"	5.00
Glimpses of Masonic History - - - - -	" " "	"	4.00
The Beginnings of the Sixth Root Race - - - - -	" " "	"	2.00
The Masters and the Path - - - - -	" " "	"	3.00
Thought Forms, Dr. A. Besant & C.W. Leadbeater		(T.P.)	3.25
Ways to Perfect Health - - - - -	Irving S. Cooper	(T.P.)	1.00
Mysticism - - - - -	Dr. A. Besant	(T.P.)	1.25
A Study in Consciousness - - - - -	" " " "	"	2.00
Four Great Religions, - - - - -	" " " "	"	1.00
The Angelic Hosts - - - - -	Geoffrey Hodson	(T.P.)	1.75
The Inner Side of Church Worship - - - - -	" " " "	"	1.00
Mysticism - - - - -	Evelyn Underhill	(T.P.)	5.00
Varieties of Psychism, - - - - -	J. I. Wedgwood	(T.P.)	.75
Art and the Emotions - - - - -	C. Jinarajadasa	(T.P.)	.35
The Divine Vision - - - - -	" " " "	"	1.00
The Great Teachers - - - - -	Herbert Whyte	(T.P.)	.75
The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire, (2 Vols.)	Gibbon	(about)	3.00
(Modern Library Series, at local booksellers)			
A Short History of the Jews - - - - -	Clement Wood	(about)	.10
(Haldeman Julius "Blue Book" series)			

Religions and Philosophies in the U.S.A. - Julius A. Weber
 (Wetzel Publishing Co., Inn., Los Angeles) (about) \$3.00

CLASS (2) AND (3) BOOK LIST

An Outline of Theosophy - - - - -	C. W. Leadbeater	(T.P.)	.45
A Textbook of Theosophy - - - - -	" " " " "	"	1.25
The Science of the Sacraments - - - - -	" " " " "	"	5.00
The Christian Creed - - - - -	" " " " "	"	3.00
The Hidden Side of Christian Festivals - - - - -	" " " " "	(S.A.P.)	4.00
Talks on the Path of Occultism (3 Vols.)- - - - -	Dr. A. Besant & C. W. Leadbeater	(T.P.)	9.00
Thought Power, Its Control and Culture - - - - -	Dr. A. Besant	(T.P.)	1.25
The Laws of the Higher Life - - - - -	" " " " "	"	.25
In the Outer Court - - - - -	" " " " "	"	1.00
The Doctrine of the Heart - - - - -	" " " " "	"	.35
The Ancient Wisdom - - - - -	" " " " "	"	2.25
Esoteric Christianity - - - - -	" " " " "	"	2.25
Ceremonies of the Liberal Catholic Rite (loose-leaf) - - - - -	Irving S. Cooper	(S.A.P.)	2.50
Meditation for Beginners - - - - -	J. I. Wedgwood	(T.P.)	.35
Religion for Beginners - - - - -	F. W. Pigott	(T.P.H.)	1.75
The Parting of the Ways - - - - -	" " " " "	"	1.25
I Promise - - - - -	C. Jinarajadasa	(T.P.)	.75
In His Name - - - - -	" " " " "	"	.50
The Law of Christ - - - - -	" " " " "	"	2.50
Lecture Notes - - - - -	" " " " "	"	1.25
At the Feet of the Master - - - - -	J. Krishnamurti	"	.50
The Consecrated Life - - - - -	Clara M. Codd	"	.75
Concentration: A Practical Course - - - - -	Ernest Wood	"	1.00
Memory Training - - - - -	" " " "	"	1.25
The Imitation of Christ - - - - -	St. Thomas a Kempis	??	
(Any book store has or can get it)			
Credo - - - - -	W. H. Pitkin	(S.A.P.)	.15
Thus Have I Heard - - - - -	Geoffrey Hodson	(T.P.)	1.25
Statement of Principles, Summary of Doctrine, and Table of the Apostolic Succession in the L.C.C.- - - - -		(S.A.P.)	.15
Liturgy of the L.C.C. (now out of print) - - - - -	"	"	1.75

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- THE ORDER OF EXORCIST -

The ordinations of Cleric, Doorkeeper and Reader have been proceeding in an ascending series, being intended to act respectively on the physical body, on the emotions and on the mind. Now we come to the ordination of Exorcist which is especially concerned with the will, and which is intended to develop this will and to give the soul fuller control of its lower self.

All those who enter the ranks of Christ's clergy will find it an advantage to know by actual experience, so far as may be, those things of which they speak. They can then come into a closer personal comradeship with the recipients of their advice. Example is always better than precept. If the clergy themselves have attained mastery over their lower natures, how much more effective will be their sage words of counsel as they stand side by side, in utmost brotherhood, with the aspiring members of their flock. Therefore, the development of the will is of enormous importance so that we can overcome our many frailties and help our brethren the better to do the same. But in the giving of our wider knowledge let there be never any coldness nor austerity, but always a heart filled with sympathy and love.

Notice that at this ordination the Bishop hands the candidate a sword, which is a symbol of the will. Compare this sword with the Sword of the Spirit, mentioned in John Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress and with the Needful Sword of Siegfried in Richard Wagner's Ring of the Nibelung, a work of deep inner significance. Before the conquering Sword of the Will, difficulties should vanish as harshness is necessary, but rather the irresistible warmth of an all-compelling Love guided by Wisdom. Such Wisdom is symbolized by the Book -- the other token bestowed at the hands of the Bishop.

Here is a helpful course preparatory to this Order of Exorcist:

EXORCIST -- Will --

(1) For Careful Reading:

The Hidden Side of Things,
Chapter 6 Nature Spirits
Chapter 7 Centers of Magnetism
Chapter 11 Occasional Events
Chapter 12 Unseen Beings
Chapter 13 Our Attitude Towards These
Influences
Chapter 14 What We Do

Invisible Helpers, by C. W. Leadbeater.

Dreams, by C. W. Leadbeater.

The Angelic Hosts, by Geoffrey Hodson.

(2) For Detailed Study:

Thought Power, Its Control
and Culture, by Dr. A. Besant.

Memory Training, by Ernest Wood.

Ceremonies of the Liberal Catholic Rite,
Part IV - The Liturgical Year.

(3) For Spiritual Unfoldment:

The Laws of the Higher Life, by Dr. A. Besant.
(For assimilation and practice. Continue meditation on previous books.)

Note: During this period of preparation, the candidate for Exorcist should add to his ability to read well aloud, the ability to speak well in public. For this it is recommended that he attend a public speaking class, if one is available in evening sessions at a local school or Adult Education project. There should be constant practice in marshalling one's knowledge and one's thoughts in a logical manner and presenting them clearly, concisely and beautifully, both in writing and vocally. One should neglect no opportunity to address a gathering, for each such experience, if approached with suitable preparation, will furnish most valuable practice. The remarks in the note to the Order of Reader apply with equal force in the art of speaking or writing. Remember, almost any man with good lungs can learn to harrangue an audience for an hour and a half, keeping them entertained, - but with a speech every word of which will be forgotten by the next day. It takes some real greatness to be able to get across a message in a few well-chosen phrases, in a manner which carries conviction and which will impress and stir one's hearers and move them to change their lives. Lincoln's Gettysburg Address is an outstanding model for all time of the acme of public speaking.

- THE ORDER OF ACOLYTE -

The ordination to this Order is intended to stimulate the intuition. This remarkable faculty is higher and more direct than the mind. Compared with its rapidity of action, the ordinary mental processes seem slow and cumbrous indeed. For when it has been perfected, after long and persistent effort, its possessor is enabled infallibly and instantaneously to distinguish truth from error. Should he desire information upon any subject, the answer will be immediately forthcoming. Every aspect of the problem will be spread like an open book before his awakened gaze. He will see at a glance the many ramifications arising from the causes set at work, and with unerring vision he will note the inevitable conclusion. Should he wish to help a fellow mortal and seek the most effective means of so doing, he can enter into that person's very consciousness, seeing things as he sees them, sensing his thoughts, sharing his sorrows and limitations, entering into his joys. Such a magnificent perfection of this faculty is very rare indeed, and takes many years, -- yes, many lives -- to achieve. But it is worth all the effort expended since it brings into controlled activity that which has been called "the Christ Spirit" which seeks ever to pour itself forth unreservedly for the uplifting of the world. Great musicians, painters, inventors, philanthropists sometimes get flashes of this great faculty, and then as quickly the inspiration is wont to vanish. However, we who are pledged to the holy service of the Master, would do well to train ourselves with the fixed determination to develop and hold this power, not for spasmodic efforts but for a constant use whenever the need arises. Even though the fulness of this power may not be attained in this life, we at least may unfold the first stages of its useful nature and so increase our power of service manifold. Let us try to feel intense love for every person we meet, to plumb the depths of his being with a view to giving our undivided sympathy and help. However poor, however old, however unattractive our neighbor may be, let us shower him with a sustained affection and understanding. Then some happy day the floodgates of this wondrous faculty of the intuition will be opened. We shall know beyond a doubt that in a marvellous way we are the same consciousness as our brother, be he human, animal or any other form of existence. And we shall prove the sublime truth that there is but One Life which is God.

Helpful reading for this Order of Acolyte is given as follows:

(1) For Careful Reading:

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|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Mysticism, | by Dr. A. Besant. |
| Mysticism, | by Evelyn Underhill. |
| Varieties of Psychism, | by J. I. Wedgwood. |
| Art and the Emotions, | by C. Jinarajadasa. |
| The Divine Vision, | by C. Jinarajadasa. |
| The Inner Side of Church Worship, | by Geoffrey Hodson. |

(2) For Detailed Study:

In the Outer Court, by Dr. A. Besant.

Ceremonies of the Liberal Catholic Rite,
Part V, Episcopal Functions.

(3) For Spiritual Unfoldment: (Daily reading & meditation)

The Doctrine of the Heart, by Dr. A. Besant.

The Law of Christ, by C. Jinarajadasa.

The Imitation of Christ, by St. Thomas à Kempis.

THE MAJOR ORDERS

- THE SUBDIACONATE -

We now come to the Major Orders which, with the exception of the Subdiaconate, confer definite powers. The Subdeacon is, in a way, an apprentice to the Deacon and it is his duty to prepare himself for that higher ordination to the Diaconate which should follow in the course of time. The Bishop assists him in this task of preparation by widening the connection between his soul or ego and his personality. This is a wise procedure because at the Diaconate ordination a link will be made between this very soul of the candidate and the Christ Himself. Thus there must be an ample pathway along which the precious influence may pass.

The soul itself in its higher mental realm must also receive its appropriate training. It is to be strengthened by lofty thoughts and abstract ideas. A serene and joyous attitude should invariably be maintained. By constant watchfulness over the lower nature, by the most elevated activity of the mind and by fervent sanctity of life it will readily be seen that the Subdeacon will prepare himself to receive the maximum benefit when at the next ordination the link is made with his Lord.

In his preparatory study for this order of Subdeacon, the candidate should add considerably to his general knowledge by studying plentifully such things as are requisite and necessary for the clergy of our Church. For by the time that the next ordination, that of the Deacon, is achieved he should have completed a comprehensive survey of the wisdom side of our Liberal Catholic philosophy, thus leaving the period between Diaconate and Priesthood for research into cognate fields and for a detailed and more far reaching application of the knowledge now obtained for the successful building up of a parish, -- a project every priest is expected to undertake.

The course of study which follows is recommended to the candidate for Subdeacon, to help him to envisage the mission of Holy Orders as a self-offering to the Christ:

(1) For Careful Reading:

Man Visible and Invisible, by Dr. A. Besant and
C. W. Leadbeater.

Clairvoyance, by C. W. Leadbeater.

The Other Side of Death, by C. W. Leadbeater.

The Decline and Fall of the
Roman Empire, by Gibbon.
Chapters 15, 16, 20, 21, 23,
28, 37, 45 (last 3 paragraphs
only), 47, 49 (first 9 para-
graphs only), 54, 60 (first 2
paragraphs only). These portions
deal with the history of the
Christian Church down to the
Great Schism between the East
and the West.

The Hidden Side of Things,
 Chapter 22 Our Relation to Children
 Chapter 24 The Results of the Knowledge.

The Great Teachers, by Herbert Whyte.

(2) For Detailed Study:

The Ancient Wisdom, by Dr. A. Besant.

The Science of the Sacraments, by C.W. Leadbeater.

Religion for Beginners, by F. W. Pigott.

Credo, by William H. Pitkin.

(3) For Spiritual Unfoldment: (Daily reading & meditation)

Thus Have I Heard, by Geoffrey Hodson.

Practice the Intent and Collect for the Week
 throughout the Christian Year as given in the
 Liturgy of the Liberal Catholic Church.

- THE DIACONATE -

At this ordination "the first drill is driven through the rock, and a definite link is made, the intelligence being joined to the corresponding principle in the Christ, so that the latter can influence the former, and stir it into beneficent activity." Just what the Deacon will make of this gift depends upon himself alone. The opportunity is there, the power has descended. It is entirely up to him whether it shall lie fallow or become a glorious foundation upon which to build for the yet higher ordination of the Priesthood.

From this time onward until "the irrevocable act shall be accomplished," which shall lay upon the Deacon "the sweet but heavy burden of the priesthood", it is incumbent that he gather up all his loose strands of our sublime Wisdom-Religion, making them into one splendid organism of ever-ready knowledge which can be used instantly for the helping of the world.

And so these books are given as a minimum course of study to advance such achievement, to assist the candidate for Deacon to become a true Teacher and Preacher:

(1) For Careful Reading:

A Study in Consciousness, by Dr. A. Besant.

Four Great Religions, by Dr. A. Besant.

Glimpses of Masonic History, by C.W. Leadbeater.
(for light on the Egyptian,
Jewish and Greek Religions)

Some good work on Christian History from
the Great Schism to the present day.
(yet to be selected)

History of the Liberal Catholic Church.
(published as yet only in serial form
in THE LIBERAL CATHOLIC)

A Short History of the Jews, by Clement Wood.
(one of the "Little Blue Book" series
of Haldeman-Julius)

The Beginnings of the Sixth Root Race,
by C. W. Leadbeater.
The Masters and the Path, by C. W. Leadbeater.

Religions and Philosophies in the U.S.A.,
by Julius A. Weber.

(2) For Detailed Study:

Esoteric Christianity, by Dr. A. Besant.

The Christian Creed, by C. W. Leadbeater.

The Hidden Side of Christian Festivals,
by C. W. Leadbeater.

The Statement of Principles, Summary
of Doctrine, and Table of the Apo-
stolic Succession in the L.C.C., - Official Document.

The Parting of the Ways, by F. W. Pigott,

The Liturgy of the Liberal Catholic Church.

(3) For Spiritual Unfoldment: (Daily reading & meditation)

Talks on the Path of Occultism, by Dr. A. Besant and
(A commentary on "At the Feet of the Master", "The
Voice of the Silence", and
"Light on the Path.") C. W. Leadbeater.

- THE PRIESTHOOD -

Now at last comes the opportunity for which the ordinand has been striving, -- the wondrous gift and priceless privilege of the Priesthood. We will do well to ponder over the significance of this step to which may well be attached the adjective "sublime". It is a momentous happening in the life of any man to be placed in direct communication with his Lord so that through a power not his own he may transmit in the act of Blessing some of the happiness of the Christ; he may give to the "little ones" of the Master, whether they be babes, children or adults, a virtual rebirth by the Sacrament of Baptism with its powerful influence for good and its gift of a guardian angel; he may "lift the heavy burden of the sorrow and sin of the world by the grace of Absolution"; he may by Holy Unction assuage infirmities both of body and of mind; he may join by Matrimony man and woman in a blessed union of souls; and he may celebrate daily for the remainder of his life the marvels of the Eucharist, that stupendous and holy down-pouring from on high when in the presence of Angels and Archangels, yea, of the Christ Himself, humanity and all that lives are raised yet a little higher in their homeward way to God.

But to accomplish these results and give back to the world some of the benefits he himself has received so abundantly, the Priest should have those to whom he can minister even as he has been ministered unto. He should form a parish. As mentioned before, this is expected of him. It is but a small return for the precious gift which merely human hands could never have bestowed. To show only the customary appreciation measured by accepted standards among right-thinking men, his life from now onward should be consecrated to the task of offering a hungry humanity the blessings he has received. And so the priest must be a man of action, ever dispensing the sacerdotal powers and leading his brethren nearer to God.

Never need he be idle. Every day, with the exceptions of Good Friday and the Saturday which follows, the new Priest may celebrate the Eucharist. This is a privilege not lightly to be turned aside. If there be no oratory, make one. If there be lack of time, get out of bed half an hour earlier each morning. If there be noise in the house, build an unpretentious room at the further end of the lot. But be loyal. Mean business. Let it never be said that we have back-door priests who slide out of their obligations and whose main object is to look sanctimonious and strut around in vestments. And let us be sure to include in our daily Eucharists those so often neglected by our brother organizations. Search the newspapers and give to the Angels the names of such as are in need of help, whether they be church members or not, -- the poor, the oppressed, the prisoners, the victims of sudden death, the executed criminals. Think what it will mean to the terrorized soul to awaken in the land of the beyond in the presence of a beautiful, compassionate Angel.

In forming a parish one method is to start with a group of friends who can make a reliable nucleus. Add to their number by giving a series of well-planned talks on the glories of our philosophy-religion. Explain carefully, sentence by sentence, the several sacraments. And when sufficient parishioners have been collected, purchase the land and build the church. But try never to allow the faintest shadow of a debt to impede progress and harrow the mind.

We must needs be the leaders of our flocks in a comprehensive sense. And so let there be developed the qualifications of the executive, the educator, the sacramentalist, the artist, and the spiritual helper. Think in how many new and effective ways beauty can be introduced into the church building. Plan many avenues of cultural advancement for the parishioners in such subjects as the Christian Fathers and Saints, the Fellowship of Faiths, Master Saints of Religions, the latest in modern science in relation to man's spiritual nature, the spiritual influence of the finest music, drama, poetry, architecture, painting, sculpture, and also the dance. -- for that at its best is one of the seven great arts with a distinctive message to the world. Discover the strong points of each parishioner and set him to work, for by work we gain enthusiasm. Smooth out all difficulties by tact, by tolerance and by that love which like the warmth of the sun shall comfort every heart. Think carefully of the value and methodization of committees. But do not be swept aside by non-essentials. Remember that we are the representatives of none other than the Christ, and that His purpose should dominate our thought.

And let us not forget that one of the most important duties of the Priest is to train his congregation so that year by year and month by month they will advance in spirituality and enter ere long that path which leads to the "measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ", to the glories which await each human soul.

Before the ordination to the Priesthood you will be asked to submit a carefully considered scheme for the building up of a parish which should embrace your intended activities over a span of years. It should contain ample evidence of original research and serve as a distinct contribution to the work of our Church. Whatever books are consulted should be specified as a complete bibliography, giving authors, editions, and the page numbers of extracts. This essay should be of considerable length, preferably typewritten, double spaced. It should assume the dignity of a university thesis for the degree of Master or Doctor. A thesis also will be required prior to the Diaconate ordination. And for this, particulars will be given on application, at the proper time.

Thus, my brothers, we have entered upon a mighty undertaking for the greater glory of God. May we be strong and of a good courage, realizing that in the power of the Christ and of our own eternal selves success must assuredly be ours both now and in the years to come.

B. G. KINGSLEY.

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