

TRAINING OF PRIESTS IN ESOCS

BY

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INTRODUCTION:

A Priest is a religious leader, "ORDAINED", who performs sacred rituals, offers spiritual guidance, and leads worship services. They often serve as a mediator between God and people, offering blessings, administering sacraments, and providing counselling.

The above definition is not exhaustive but underscores the following:

1. All baptized and ordained members of the ESOCS Church are Priest
2. Because of the sacredness of our responsibilities, we must be HOLY and live in Righteousness
3. As Priests we are Intercessors
4. We are leaders with compassion, empathy, love, and with the spirit of discernment.

(Heb. 7, 1 Peter 2:9, Rev. 5:10, Rom. 12:1, Lev. 6:12-13, 1 Kings 18, Zech. 3:1-4, Acts 13:22, Luke 15:7, 2 Cor. 5:21. Note: we are not discussing the bible references as we proceed)

STEPS TO BECOMING A PRIEST

1. PERSONAL REFLECTION/SELF

EXAMINATION: The need to reflect on the “why” you want to become a priest and your readiness to assume the responsibilities of a Priest (Heb. 5:1-10, 1 Pet. 2:9, Psalms 139:23-24, John 13: 1-14)

2. CALLING (RECOMMENDATION):

Considering the different levels of Priesthood, it is not automatic and highly spiritual with specific assignments. (Isaiah 61:6, 1 Pet. 2:2-10, Heb. 3:7-11, Heb. 7:17, Ephesians 4:14)

3. TRAINING: The importance of training cannot be over-emphasized and it is not and will not take anything away from the Spiritual Calling. “Iron sharpens Iron.....”Prov. 27:17 (1 Timothy 4:7-8, 1 Sam 2:35)

4. ORDINATION: This is an important aspect of our becoming Priests, arguably the

most important. It elevates you to a higher spiritual realm, discernment, and responsibility. It is a confirmation of your acceptances to kill the flesh and allow the Holy Spirit to dwell. (Exo 28: 41, Exo 30:30, Acts 6:6, 1 Tim. 1:18, 1 Tim 4:14)

WHY TRAIN TO BECOME A PRIEST

Training to become a priest is a path driven by a deep personal calling to serve God and the people, and it involves a rigorous process of formation and education. This path is not just a job, but a unique vocation where we dedicate our lives to spiritual leadership, teaching, and mediation/prayers.

Note that it starts with your personal decision to serve and grow spiritually.

IMPORTANCE OF TRAINING A PRIEST

Training a priest is crucial for equipping them to fulfil their diverse roles within the church and the wider community. This training encompasses theological studies, pastoral care, leadership,

and personal information, ensuring they are well-prepared to serve as spiritual leaders, ministers of the sacraments, and advocates for the faithful.

PRIMARY OBJECTIVES OF TRAINING A PRIEST

The primary objective of training a priest is to prepare individuals for a life of service within the church, equipping them with the knowledge, skills, and spiritual formation necessary to effectively fulfil their pastoral duties. This training encompasses academic studies, pastoral experience, and personal development, ultimately aiming to cultivate individuals capable of leading and serving their communities with wisdom, compassion, and faith.

However, as pastors and administrators, priests are not only responsible for carrying out the mission of Jesus Christ and meeting the spiritual needs of the people they serve, but for temporal affairs as well. Therefore, it is essential that they are adequately prepared for leadership, administration and management.

KEY OBJECTIVES OF PRIEST TRAINING

1. Academic and Intellectual Formation
2. Pastoral and Practical Experience
3. Spiritual and Human Development
4. Leadership and Communication Skills
5. Serving the Church and the Community

IN CONCLUSION

ESOCS church has produced many renowned priests through the help of the Holy Spirit and intentional trainings. The Training Directorate has continued to improve on the training model which has helped to redefine, re-equip, retrained, and reposition our priest for better output.

Thank You.

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