

The Priest in the Orthodox Community and the Cross of His Mission

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Abstract. The Orthodox Church is structured as a Church for people living on their own territory in a unitary culture and language with a long historical ethos according to the 34th apostolic canon. The Church is organized into bishoprics led by a canonical bishop ordained in an apostolic succession drawing on the apostles who received the grace during the Pentecost as accounted for in the Scripture. The bishop orders the priests of his bishoprics mandated to evangelize, to sanctify in the grace of the sacraments, culminating with the Eucharist, the people of God in the parish. It also brings the members of the celebrating and confessing Christian community to a pilgrimage with Christ in the Holy Spirit to the Heaven Kingdom from generation to generation.

1. In the long Tradition of the Church, the orthodox priest teaches the revealed truth to God's people, namely the Revelation from the Scripture and dogmas of the patristic period incorporated in the text of the ritual, particularly in the Eucharistic Liturgy with the internal logic of the divine Word. This represents the dimension of evangelization beyond culture and political regimes, secular ideologies or cultures of the modern world.

2. The Church makes the Eucharist and the Eucharist makes the Church, a well known syntagm in sacramental theology appropriate for the priest in his parish which must be understood not in a mechanical way, but in a personal dimension including him. Thus, the priest becomes the sign of Christ's love for His sake and entrusted with heavenly power, a triangle of relational ecclesial ontology, connecting the world to the coming Kingdom promised by Jesus.

3. The priest is the spiritual leader of his community but in a humble and crucified way as the Great Priest, our Lord Jesus Christ, and also, in a personal and communitarian manner. The aim is to reiterate spiritually the historical and saving Way of the Savior carrying His Cross to Golgotha, a "wounded Healer" in the world meant to reconcile, to God in his own parish, Christ's Body.

4. Diaconal work belong to the priest at Church local level and in Romania is now a lot of philanthropy action in our parishes.

Unity in mission and evangelization would be fulfilled by a unity *in sacris* in order to be everywhere at home in Christ.

Key words: Church, cross, culture, evangelization, mission, priest, revelation, parish, sacrament.

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