

Without the Religious

The sacrament of Holy Orders is a very important asset to our Christian lifestyle. Priests, religious brothers, and nuns set an example for us to live by. God works through the priests to forgive our sins, deliver his Sacred Word, guide us, and present us with the Body and Blood of Christ. Priests also carry out the sacraments and educate us in the truths of our faith. Religious brothers and nuns demonstrate for us how to live a holy and virtuous life. Through the priests and religious, we learn about our faith and the life of Jesus, our Savior. They inspire us to strive for honesty and obedience in our lives, and we are able to gain important morals through their teachings. Holy Orders is the sacrament that provides us with the instructors we require to learn about and live out our faith to the greatest extent.

If there were no priests, brothers, or nuns, we would not know our faith as best we can. Priests and religious provide us with opportunities to learn about Christ and achieve righteousness. Without them, we would be ignorant of God and we would not be able to celebrate the Mass or the sacraments, especially the Eucharist. Priests, brothers, and nuns also participate in many charities, work at schools, do missionary work, and help the poor. If they did not exist, charities would not gather as many volunteers, children would not be educated in the faith, missionary work would be neglected, and many poor people would never get the help they desperately need. Without the priests, we would have no bishops, archbishops, cardinals, or a pope, and essentially there would be no ecclesiastical leadership left for Christians. Without the priests and religious, the Church would not be as advanced as it is today.

If the people of the world did not know God, they would do only what was pleasing to them or the people around them. Many Christians would be brought up in another religion and many others would not be religious at all. Some may still read the Bible and become Christian, but they would not be able to celebrate Mass, participate in the sacraments, or fully accept God's grace. Although there still may be Christians, it would be extremely difficult for those few to attain holiness and find favor with God without the support and guidance the priests and religious contribute to our Church. The priests, religious brothers, and nuns are a vital part of our Christian society, and without them, the Church would be unstable and insecure.