

Priestly Ordination of Deacon Richard Pagano
Cathedral Basilica of St. Augustine
May 18, 2013

Come Holy Spirit Come – help us all that Father Richard’s priesthood may be rich in fruits! May the breath of God come to this priest so that he may reflect your mind and your heart to all.

Veni Creator Spiritus, visit our minds. Fill with your grace the hearts you have created...

As we reach the summit of Easter, the great festival of Pentecost, an outpouring of the Holy Spirit is taking place here at the ancient Cathedral Basilica... this is a grace filled morning!

Father Richard will allow the Spirit to come upon him (Is. 61:1) as his hands will be anointed with the Holy Chrism for the service of the people of God.

The Order of the Presbyterate will soon join the Bishop in laying hands over Deacon Richard to incorporate him into the priestly body. The Holy Spirit will come to him to consecrate him deeply in the truth of becoming a shepherd for the people. Especially the broken hearted the suffering, the poor and outcast. Jesus’ prayer for his disciples and apostles resounds in Paul’s prayer for young Timothy: “be a continuing example of love, faith and purity,” so to assure the salvation of Timothy himself and the salvation of those he ministers to.

Today, our brother Richard will be entrusted with the paten and chalice to bring the Sacrament of the Paschal Mystery “in memory of the Lord.” In each Mass he will celebrate, Fr. Richard will beg the intervention of the Holy Spirit as it is said in Eucharistic Prayer III: “and so Father we bring you these gifts. We ask you to make them holy by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

Blessed John Paul II stated beautifully the marvel of what is happening in this sacred ceremony: “the Eucharist and Orders are fruits of the same Spirit. As in the Mass it is the Spirit who works the transubstantiation of bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ, so in the Sacrament of Orders it is the Spirit who works the consecration of bishop or priest” (Gift and Mystery).

Richard, keep always alive the amazement of the Mass, the gift of the Eucharist which for a Catholic, is the amazing grace!! As you will prostrate on the floor in humility of heart, you symbolize the truth that only the one who considers himself an unworthy servant can receive the mandate of the Lord – do this in memory of me or dare to tell a sinner: go in peace, your sins are forgiven!

Mary conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit. Her fiat is the expression of a total openness to God enabling the Spirit to make the impossible possible: a creature who is both virgin and mother. St. Augustine explains that her faith is as important as her blessed maternity. She was completely docile to the Holy Spirit in her life. Let Mary under the title of Our Lady of La Leche be the mother of your priesthood. She will always support you. She will teach you to be the kind of priest her Son wants you to be. She will help you to be always chaste, keeping your promise of celibacy faithful to the end, and to always witness your promise of obedience in full

collaboration with your brother priests and your Bishop. She will keep you close to her immaculate heart as only a mother knows how...united with her let your entire life be a Magnificat.

Come Oh Creator Spirit

Visit our minds. Fill with your grace the hearts you have created.

Oh you who are called Paraclete, gift of the Most High God, living spring, fire, love anointing of the soul...send forth your seven gifts, stir in us the Word. Be light to the mind and burning love in the heart.

Heal our wounds with the balm of your love.

From the enemy defend us. Keep us from all harm. Light of Eternal Winds, unveil to us the great mystery of God the Father, and the Son united in one simple love.

Most Rev. Felipe J. Estévez

Bishop of St. Augustine