

WHAT WE DO

Ordained Roman Catholic priests who have left the canonical priesthood are certified by CITI Ministries to serve individuals and communities lacking adequate sacramental and pastoral care. CITI's certification enables these priests to provide non-judgmental ministry to all who have been alienated or marginalized by the Institutional Church but who still want to nourish their Catholic faith. Since our inception, the sacramental needs of tens of thousands of the faithful have been filled by CITI priests.

WHY WE CAME INTO BEING

CITI Ministries was founded in 1992 by Louise Haggett who could not find a priest to visit her mother in an assisted living facility in Maine. Knowing that thousands of priests had left active ministry, she was inspired to find and assist these priests to use their gifts and restore them to serving the people of God.

Louise recognized that the availability of essential sacramental activities was being threatened, creating a state of emergency in the Roman Catholic Church. The shortage, unavailability and/or unwillingness of today's clergy continue to cause emergency situations. This jeopardizes the faithful's baptismal right to the spiritual riches of the Church, especially the Word of God and the Sacraments.

According to Canon law, "After it has been validly received sacred ordination never becomes invalid."

Therefore, married or resigned priests are not "ex" or "former" priests, they are still priests. We believe that they should be able to serve the people of God.

Our hope is that a vibrant married and resigned priest ministry will continue to motivate discussion that will ultimately result in incremental changes regarding the issue of mandatory celibacy.

CITI MINISTRIES CAN HELP!

- ❖ If a Mass you've been accustomed to attending is no longer available due to a shortage of priests in the parish, you can call a CITI Ministries priest to celebrate Mass.
- ❖ If you are contemplating marriage or remarriage and have been turned away by the Church, a CITI priest is available for pastoral care as well as a civil and religious marriage, interfaith marriage or remarriage.
- ❖ If a baptism for your baby cannot be arranged due to church scheduling or has been refused by your priest, you can call a CITI priest.
- ❖ If you have been remarried and would like to have your marriage blessed, you can call a CITI priest.
- ❖ If you no longer attend church and would like to worship in the Roman Catholic tradition, you can call a CITI priest to celebrate Mass. There may already be a home Mass or small faith community in your area (check our website).
- ❖ If your loved one has no parish priest available to conduct prayers for the sick or dying or funeral rites, you can call a CITI priest to celebrate the Anointing of the Sick or provide a funeral service.
- ❖ If you feel called to resume exercising your ministry, join our community of CITI Ministries priests.
- ❖ If you are asked by a family member to officiate their wedding but do not have faculties, join CITI Ministries to legally witness weddings.

CITI Ministries Inc.

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Home of the Society of Christ's Priesthood



CITI Ministries

CITI Ministries enables married and resigned priests to continue their ministries serving those who have been rejected or neglected by the traditional Roman Catholic Church. Whether it's officiating a wedding, celebrating a home or small faith community Mass, conducting a baptism, anointing the sick, conducting a funeral or serving as a chaplain, our CITI priests serve the under-served in a non-judgmental way.

Rooted in the Roman Catholic Tradition, CITI Ministries is a lay organization whose mission is to help fill the spiritual needs of the people of God by providing compassionate ministries to all.

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WHO WE ARE

CITI (Celibacy Is The Issue) Ministries is a lay organization calling resigned and married Roman Catholic priests back into ministry to serve the spiritual needs of those under-served, neglected or rejected by the Roman Catholic Church. We gratefully encourage the spiritual, professional and financial assistance of laypeople who continue to support a married priesthood. CITI Ministries welcomes all validly ordained priests in the Roman Catholic rite who are seeking certification to return to active ministry.

WHO WE SERVE

CITI Ministries serves the people of God – that is, those people who call on us to serve from any/all faith backgrounds. CITI priests are available for spiritual and sacramental ministry to anyone who asks for their help. We especially reach out to Catholics who do not feel welcomed in their local parish or who cannot seek pastoral help within the institution for various reasons – clergy sexual abuse, the lack of pastoral concern for divorced Catholics, the LGBTQ Community, women’s role in the Church, and so on. We respond positively and non-judgmentally to Catholics who have not attended a parish for some time or feel uncomfortable approaching their local parish priest at a time of need. Jesus never turned anyone away; neither will our CITI priests. **We are here for anyone in need!**

For More Information

Visit our website

WWW.CITIMINISTRIES.ORG

Please consider supporting our mission with a tax-deductible contribution.

A LITTLE HISTORY

The Roman Catholic Church was founded by **married** followers of Jesus. They served church communities formed by the people with dedication and honor until medieval politics made them outlaws in the 12th century. The legacy of married priests survives in the Code of Canon Law, the body of laws that is written by and directs the Roman Catholic Church. These laws establish the validity of the married priesthood and the Sacraments they administer. The community (the laity), however, must do the asking in order to activate these laws.

CANONS APPLYING TO A MARRIED PRIESTHOOD

CANON 290 – “After it has been validly received, sacred ordination never becomes invalid.”

CANON 213 – “The Christian faithful have the right to receive assistance from the sacred pastors out of the spiritual goods of the Church, especially the Word of God and the Sacraments.”

CANON 212.3 – “In accord with the knowledge, competence and preeminence which they (the faithful) possess, they have the right and even at times a duty to manifest to the sacred pastors their opinion on matters which pertain to the good of the Church, and they have a right to make their opinion known to the other Christian faithful ...”

CANON 844 – “Whenever necessity requires or genuine spiritual advantage suggests, and provided that the danger of error or indifferentism is avoided, it is lawful for the faithful for whom it is physically or morally impossible to approach a Catholic Minister, to receive the Sacraments of Penance, Eucharist, and Anointing of the Sick from non-Catholic ministers in whose churches these Sacraments are valid.” (If we can lawfully receive Sacraments from non-Catholic ministers, CITI priests can provide the same, since utilization of Canon 844 is based on the premise of valid ordination.)

CANON 843 – “Sacred ministers may not deny the Sacraments to those who opportunely ask for them, are properly disposed and are not prohibited by law from receiving them.”

CANON 1752 – “... the salvation of souls ... is always the supreme law of the Church.”

Additional examples of emergency sacramental administration that are permitted by Canon Law are:

“danger of death”, “reasonable cause”, “just reason” and “grave inconvenience”



A FEW FACTS

- ❖ A married priesthood prevailed for more than half the Church’s history. Prior to 1139 (when celibacy was made mandatory by Church fathers) some 39 popes and many bishops and priests were married.
- ❖ Since 1980, the Church has ordained into the Catholic priesthood hundreds of married Protestant ministers who converted to Catholicism. In one instance, a priest who departed to marry was replaced by a newly converted minister with a family.
- ❖ In 1993, Pope John Paul II declared, “Celibacy is not essential to the priesthood.”
- ❖ Priests are continuing to age and far fewer priests are being ordained than in the past.
- ❖ Thousands of US parishes have no resident priest, have merged or have closed.
- ❖ Recent scandals have caused Catholics to question their faith and become disenchanted with Church leadership.