

THE OFFICES OF CHRIST

After the sacrament of Baptism, the priest or deacon anoints the person with the sacred chrism oil while praying, "As Christ was anointed Priest, Prophet, and King, so may you live always as a member of his body, sharing everlasting life." At this, we come to share in Jesus' threefold mission as prophet, priest, and king.



PRIEST The Catechism states, "Christ, high priest and unique mediator, has made of the Church 'a kingdom, priests for his God and Father.' The whole community of believers is, as such, priestly. The faithful exercise their baptismal priesthood through their participation, each according to his own vocation, in Christ's mission as priest, prophet, and king. Through the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation the faithful are 'consecrated to be . . . a holy priesthood'" (CCC 1546).

PROPHET Prophets are sent as messengers of God to bring His word to the people and witness to the Truth. As the Word of God made flesh, Jesus is a prophet who brings the Good News of salvation to the people. He is identified as "Jesus the prophet" in Matthew 21:11, and refers to himself as a prophet in Luke 4:24. We are called to participate in this mission by sharing the Gospel with others and joyfully teaching them about Jesus Christ.



KING Jesus is the King of the Universe. He told his disciples, "All authority in Heaven and on earth has been given to me" (Matthew 28: 18). Jesus announced the coming of the Kingdom of God in his ministry. The Catechism states in paragraph 898, "By reason of their special vocation it belongs to the laity to seek the kingdom of God by engaging in temporal affairs and directing them according to God's will." We participate in this mission of Christ by building his kingdom on earth.

