



THE ORDINATION OF  
BENJAMIN JEROME NOBLES

TO THE SACRED ORDER OF DEACONS

Wednesday, June 10, 2020 at 6:00pm

Harris Memorial Chapel  
of Christ Church Cathedral  
New Orleans, Louisiana

## **Preface to the Ordination Rite**

The Holy Scriptures and ancient Christian writers make it clear that from the apostles' time, there have been different ministries within the Church. In particular, since the time of the New Testament, three distinct orders of ordained ministers have been characteristic of Christ's holy Catholic Church. First, there is the order of bishops who carry on the apostolic work of leading, supervising, and uniting the Church. Secondly, associated with them are the presbyters, or ordained elders, in subsequent times generally known as priests. Together with the bishops, they take part in the governance of the Church, in the carrying out of its missionary and pastoral work, and in the preaching of the Word of God and administering his holy Sacraments. Thirdly, there are deacons who assist bishops and priests in all of this work. It is also a special responsibility of deacons to minister in Christ's name to the poor, the sick, the suffering, and the helpless.

The persons who are chosen and recognized by the Church as being called by God to the ordained ministry are admitted to these sacred orders by solemn prayer and the laying on of episcopal hands. It has been, and is, the intention and purpose of this Church to maintain and continue these three orders; and for this purpose these services of ordination and consecration are appointed. No persons are allowed to exercise the offices of bishop, priest, or deacon in this Church unless they are so ordained, or have already received such ordination with the laying on of hands by bishops who are themselves duly qualified to confer Holy Orders.

It is also recognized and affirmed that the threefold ministry is not the exclusive property of this portion of Christ's Catholic Church, but is a gift from God for the nurture of his people and the proclamation of his Gospel everywhere. Accordingly, the manner of ordaining in this Church is to be such as has been, and is, most generally recognized by Christian people as suitable for the conferring of the sacred orders of bishop, priest, and deacon.

*At the Bishop's invitation, all stand.*

## ∞ Opening Acclamation

*Bishop* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
*People* **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

*The Bishop continues*

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## ∞ The Presentation and Certification

*The Bishop and people are seated. The ordinand, along with lay and ordained presenters, now assemble before the Bishop. The candidate is presented to and certified before the Bishop.*

*Presenters* Morris, Bishop in the Church of God, on behalf of the clergy and people of the Diocese of Louisiana, we present to you Benjamin Jerome Nobles to be ordained a deacon in Christ's holy catholic Church.

*Bishop* Has he been selected in accordance with the canons of this Church? And do you believe his manner of life to be suitable to the exercise of this ministry?

*Presenters* We certify to you that he has satisfied the requirements of the canons, and we believe him qualified for this order.

*The Bishop says to the ordinand*

*Bishop* Will you be loyal to the doctrine, discipline, and worship of Christ as this Church has received them? And will you, in accordance with the canons of this Church, obey your bishop and other ministers who may have authority over you and your work?

*Ordinand* I am willing and ready to do so; and I solemnly declare that I do believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God and to contain all things necessary to salvation; and I do solemnly engage to conform to the doctrine, discipline, and worship of The Episcopal Church.

*The ordinand then signs the above Declaration in the sight of all present. After the Declaration has been signed, the people stand at the invitation of the Bishop, and the Bishop continues*

*Bishop* Dear friends in Christ, you know the importance of this ministry, and the weight of your responsibility in presenting Benjamin for ordination to the sacred order of deacons. Therefore if any of you know any impediment or crime because of which we should not proceed, come forward now, and make it known.

*If no objection is made, the Bishop continues*

*Bishop* Is it your will that Ben be ordained a deacon?  
*People* **It is.**

*Bishop* Will you uphold him in this ministry?  
*People* **We will.**

*The Bishop then calls the people to prayer as follows*

*Bishop* In peace let us pray to the Lord.

*The people may stand or kneel for the Litany. A person appointed leads the prayers from the lectern. The leader and people pray responsively; congregational responses are in bold.*

## ∞ The Litany for Ordinations

*Leader* God the Father,  
*People* **Have mercy on us.**

*Leader* God the Son,  
*People* **Have mercy on us.**

*Leader* God the Holy Spirit,  
*People* **Have mercy on us.**

*Leader* Holy Trinity, one God,  
*People* **Have mercy on us.**

*Leader* We pray to you, Lord Christ.  
*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth  
and love, and be found without fault at the Day of your Coming,  
we pray to you, O Lord.  
*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* For all members of your Church in their vocation and ministry,  
that they may serve you in a true and godly life, we pray to you,  
O Lord.  
*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* For Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Morris, our Bishop, and for all  
bishops, priests, and deacons, that they may be filled with your  
love, may hunger for truth, and may thirst after righteousness, we  
pray to you, O Lord.  
*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* For Ben, chosen deacon in your Church, we pray to you, O Lord.  
*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* That he may faithfully fulfill the duties of this ministry, build up  
your Church, and glorify your Name, we pray to you, O Lord.  
*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* That by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit he may be sustained and  
encouraged to persevere to the end, we pray to you, O Lord.  
*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* For his family, that they may be adorned with all Christian virtues,  
we pray to you, O Lord.  
*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader*

For all who fear God and believe in you, Lord Christ, that our divisions may cease and that all may be one as you and the Father are one, we pray to you, O Lord.

*People*

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader*

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to you, O Lord.

*People*

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader*

For those who do not yet believe, and for those who have lost their faith, that they may receive the light of the Gospel, we pray to you, O Lord.

*People*

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader*

For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, O Lord.

*People*

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader*

For those in positions of public trust, that they may serve justice and promote the dignity and freedom of every person, we pray to you, O Lord.

*People*

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader*

For a blessing upon all human labor, and for the right use of the riches of creation, that the world may be freed from poverty, famine, and disaster, we pray to you, O Lord.

*People*

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader*

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, O Lord.

*People*

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader*

For ourselves; for the forgiveness of our sins, and for the grace of the Holy Spirit to amend our lives, we pray to you, O Lord.

*People*

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* For all who have died in the communion of your Church, and those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to you, O Lord.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Rejoicing in the fellowship of the ever-blessed Virgin Mary, and all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another and all our life to Christ our God.

*People* **To you, O Lord our God.**

*Leader* Lord, have mercy.

*People* **Christ, have mercy.**

*Leader* Lord, have mercy.

*The Bishop now stands and says*

*Bishop* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Bishop* Let us pray.

*The Bishop continues*

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*The people of are now seated for the readings from Holy Scripture.*

# The Word of God

∞ The First Reading

JEREMIAH 1:4-9

**T**he word of the Lord came to me, saying, “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.” “Alas, Sovereign Lord,” I said, “I do not know how to speak; I am too young.” But the Lord said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am too young.’ You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you,” declares the Lord. Then the Lord reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, “I have put my words in your mouth.”

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.  
*People*            **Thanks be to God.**

∞ Psalm 119:33-40

*The people remain seated for the Psalm, read aloud and in unison.*

**Teach me, Lord, the way of your decrees,  
that I may follow it to the end.**

**Give me understanding, so that I may keep your law  
and obey it with all my heart.**

**Direct me in the path of your commands,  
for there I find delight.**

**Turn my heart toward your statutes  
and not toward selfish gain.**

**Turn my eyes away from worthless things;  
preserve my life according to your word.**

**Fulfill your promise to your servant,  
so that you may be feared.**



**Take away the disgrace I dread,  
for your laws are good.**

**How I long for your precepts!  
In your righteousness preserve my life.**

∞ The Second Reading

ACTS 6:2-7

**S**o the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, “It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.”

This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.  
*People*            **Thanks be to God.**

∞ The Holy Gospel

LUKE 22:24-27

*Deacon  
People*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.  
**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

**A** dispute also arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest. Jesus said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors. But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves. For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves."

*Deacon  
People*

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

∞ The Sermon

THE REVEREND ANDREW R. THAYER

∞ The Nicene Creed

*At the Bishop's invitation, all stand.*

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit**

**he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## ∞ The Examination

*All are seated except the ordinand, who stands before the Bishop. The Bishop addresses the ordinand as follows*

My brother, every Christian is called to follow Jesus Christ, serving God the Father, through the power of the Holy Spirit. God now calls you to a special ministry of servanthood directly under your bishop. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are to serve all people, particularly the poor, the weak, the sick, and the lonely.

As a deacon in the Church, you are to study the Holy Scriptures, to seek nourishment from them, and to model your life upon them. You are to make Christ and his redemptive love known, by your word and example, to those among whom you live, and work, and worship. You are to interpret to the Church the needs, concerns, and hopes of the world. You are to assist the bishop and priests in public worship and in the ministration of God's Word and Sacraments, and you are to carry out other duties assigned to you from time to time. At all times, your life and teaching are to show Christ's people that in serving the helpless they are serving Christ himself.

*Bishop* My brother, do you believe that you are truly called by God and his Church to the life and work of a deacon?

*Answer* I believe I am so called.

*Bishop* Do you now in the presence of the Church commit yourself to this trust and responsibility?

*Answer* I do.

*Bishop* Will you be guided by the pastoral direction and leadership of your bishop?

*Answer* I will.

*Bishop* Will you be faithful in prayer, and in the reading and study of the Holy Scriptures?

*Answer* I will.

*Bishop* Will you look for Christ in all others, being ready to help and serve those in need?

*Answer* I will.

*Bishop* Will you do your best to pattern your life and that of your family in accordance with the teachings of Christ, so that you may be a wholesome example to all people?

*Answer* I will.

*Bishop* Will you in all things seek not your glory but the glory of the Lord Christ?

*Answer* I will.

*Bishop* May the Lord by his grace uphold you in the service he lays upon you.

*Answer* Amen.

*All now stand except the ordinand, who kneels facing the Bishop.*

**Ordination Hymn**

***Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire***

*(Recording, performed by the Choir of Trinity Episcopal Church)*

**H 504**

VENI CREATOR SPIRITUS

*A period of silent prayer follows, the people remain standing. The Bishop then says this Prayer of Consecration*

O God, most merciful Father, we praise you for sending your Son Jesus Christ, who took on himself the form of a servant, and humbled himself, becoming obedient even to death on the cross. We praise you that you have highly exalted him, and made him Lord of all; and that, through him, we know that whoever would be great must be servant of all. We praise you for the many ministries in your Church, and for calling this your servant to the order of deacons.

*Here the Bishop lays hands upon the head of the ordinand, and prays*

Therefore, Father, through Jesus Christ your Son, give your Holy Spirit to Ben, fill him with grace and power, and make him a deacon in your Church.

*After laying hands on each ordinand, the Bishop continues*

Make him, O Lord, modest and humble, strong and constant, to observe the discipline of Christ. Let his life and teaching so reflect your commandments, that through him many may come to know you and love you. As your Son came not to be served but to serve, may this deacon share in Christ's service, and come to the unending glory of him who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever.

*The People in a loud voice respond **AMEN.***

*The new Deacon is now vested according to the order of deacons, with a stole over the left shoulder. The Bishop then gives a Bible to the newly ordained, saying*

Receive this Bible as the sign of your authority to proclaim God's Word and to assist in the ministration of his holy Sacraments.

## ∞ The Peace

*Bishop*            The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*People*            **And also with you.**

*The clergy and people greet the newly ordained and one another with a sign of Christ's peace. The Bishop makes announcements and bids alms and offerings. Following the Peace, the Bishop invites the assembly to prayer.*

## ∞ The Lord's Prayer

*Bishop*            Let us pray in the words our Savior Christ has taught us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

*Bishop*            Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to you, so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills, that we may be wholly yours, utterly dedicated to you; and then use us, we pray, as you will, and always to your glory and the welfare of your people; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom every family in heaven and earth is named, grant you to be strengthened with might by his Holy Spirit, that, Christ, dwelling in your hearts by faith, you may be filled with all the fullness of God. **Amen.**

∞ The Episcopal Blessing

∞ The Dismissal

*The new Deacon dismisses the assembly, saying*

*Deacon* Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit  
*People* **Thanks be to God.**



**Gifts in honor of Rev. Nobles' Ordination  
to Trinity Loaves and Fishes and Jesus Project Ministries**

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*(Choose TLF under Designation, and please not Ben Nobles Ordination in "comment")*

By mail: 1329 Jackson Avenuem New Orleans, LA 70130

*Please note "TLF / Ben Nobles Ordination" in memo line.*

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By mail: 8708 Nelson St, New Orleans, LA 70118

*Please note "Ben Nobles Ordination" in memo line.*

## **Liturgical Participants**

### **President**

The Right Reverend Rev. Morris K. Thompson, Jr

### **Bishop's Chaplain ~ Declaration**

The Reverend Canon Shannon R. Manning

### **Presenters**

The Reverend Andrew R. Thayer

Mary Sutton

### **Old Testament Reading**

Aaron Taylor

### **New Testament Reading**

Luigi Mandile

### **Gospeler**

The Reverend Canon John Kellogg

### **The Homilist**

The Reverend Andrew R. Thayer

### **Dean of Christ Church Cathedral ~ Vester**

The Very Reverend David Duplantier

### **Musician**

Jarrett Follett