



PRIEST, PROPHET, KING

A self-guided retreat written by
Andrew Morales

Jesus Christ has made us to be partakers of His Kingdom. At our baptism, the ministering priest says: “As Christ was anointed Priest, Prophet, and King, so may you live always as a member of his body, sharing everlasting life.” We have a call to live out these roles in our life, but how can we do that? This retreat will help you to see ways in which we can be active in those three roles.

Jesus Christ is the one whom the Father anointed with the Holy Spirit and established as priest, prophet, and king. The whole People of God participates in these three offices of Christ and bears the responsibilities for mission and service that flow from them.
(Catechism of the Catholic Church, Paragraph 783)

HOW TO USE OUR SELF-GUIDED RETREATS:

READ
the scripture
prayerfully

MEDITATE
upon the reflections of
our retreat directors

JOURNAL
using the
provided space

HOW CAN I POSSIBLY BE LIKE A PRIEST?

Refer to Excerpt A: 1st Letter of St. Peter (1 Peter 2: 4-5, 9)

(also find at <http://www.usccb.org/bible/1peter/2>)

In his letter, Saint Peter speaks to the Gentiles to proclaim the universality of salvation. In the Old Testament, the Jewish people were marked as God’s People, who offered sacrifice of praise to Yahweh. With Jesus Christ, salvation is opened to every nation, every race and tongue. For us, this means we get to share in the privilege of being God’s People too. Just as the Israelites offered sacrifice, in a similar way we make ourselves a living sacrifice, in imitation of Jesus. In this way, we become a priestly people. We have a unique kind of priesthood, but not a lesser one than our parish priests. At the Eucharist, or anytime throughout the day, we can offer ourselves—all that we have and all that we are—to our heavenly Father. The Mass becomes our sacrifice, along with the celebrant priest. We also do this in imitation of the One High Priest, who gave up himself totally on the cross for our salvation. How can you see yourself making “a living sacrifice?” In your common priesthood, what thoughts, concerns, joys, habits, or prayers can you offer up to God?

PROPHESYING IN OUR DAY AND AGE

“Worship God. Witness to Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”
(Revelation 19:10)

Being like a prophet encompasses a large part of our discipleship with Christ. The word prophet means “God’s messenger.” We know the examples of this when we look to the Old Testament figures, like Moses, Elijah, Isaiah, Zechariah, or Jonah. They were tasked by God to speak His Word to the people, often proclaiming a call to repentance or revealing news of salvation. They often received visions of hope for the future, often pointing to Jesus. But the work of prophets does not end with the last book of the Bible! We are all meant to be “messengers of God”, or “messengers of the Good News”. Although we won’t be adding any new revelation, we will certainly be moved by the Spirit to speak up and speak out. We can “prophecy” when we console or advise a friend, or when someone needs to hear God’s words through our mouths. And most importantly, we are prophets when we give witness to Jesus, the Word of God, through our words and actions. Reflect on how we can be more attentive to the Spirit who stirs us to share God’s life-giving Word with family or friends.

ROBED WITH THE TRUE ROYALTY OF CHRIST

Refer to Excerpt C: ‘Sermon 4’ by Pope Saint Leo I

(https://www.vatican.va/archive/ccc_css/archive/catechism/p123a9p2.htm, under Paragraph 786)

Our share in the kingly ministry of Jesus was assigned to us by the One True King when we were adopted as sons/daughters of God by the Father, in the Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ. As sons/daughters of the Father and brother/sister to Jesus the Son, we are partakers in Christ’s royal kingdom. So, we are royalty, but not of this world. We cannot be like earthly kings, bossing around other people and holding unruly power over others; St. Aloysius Gonzaga reminds us “it is better to be the child of God than king of the whole world.” Our kingship does not lie in power or wealth, but in love, humility, and service. The King of kings, Lord of lords, washed his disciples’ feet at the Last Supper. His model sets the standard for us. We are kings when we care for those around us. And Pope Leo reminds us that, as the temples of the Holy Spirit, we have an interior duty to rule over our passions, our consciences; indeed, to care for our body, mind, and soul. How can you be a king, being at the service for others and having reign in your interior life with God?

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Reflection Excerpts

Excerpt A: “Come to him, a living stone, rejected by human beings but chosen and precious in the sight of God, and, like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ...you are ‘a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his own, so that you may announce the praises’ of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.” (1 Peter 2: 4-5, 9)

Excerpt C: “The sign of the cross makes kings of all those reborn in Christ and the anointing of the Holy Spirit consecrates them as priests, so that, apart from the particular service of our ministry, all spiritual and rational Christians are recognized as members of this royal race and sharers in Christ's priestly office. What, indeed, is as royal for a soul as to govern the body in obedience to God? And what is as priestly as to dedicate a pure conscience to the Lord and to offer the spotless offerings of devotion on the altar of the heart?” (Sermon 4, Pope Leo the Great)