

The Presbyter as 'priest': Vatican II

In its Decree on the Ministry and Life of Presbyters Vatican II generally uses the word presbyter to speak of those exercising the ordained ministry. However, in the following texts, it uses the word 'priest'(Latin 'sacerdos').

The faithful seek for God's word 'from the mouth of priests'(n.4)

'Priests' have the ministry of instructing the people in the faith (n.6)

A senate of 'priests' should be set up (n.7)

1

It speaks of 'priests of the New Testament'(n.9)

'priests' exercising leadership (n.9)

the 'mystery of the Eucharistic sacrifice ...
in which priests fulfil their principal function'(n.13)

'priests' who have lain down their lives (n.13) 'the mission
of the priest'(n.16) 'priests whose portion is the Lord'(n.17)

'priests' managing ecclesiastical property (n.17)

It supports the setting up of funds for the care of
'priests'(n.21)

2

In the opening paragraph it speaks of presbyters being 'in the service of Christ the Teacher, Priest and King' and refers to Christ the Priest on a number of occasions throughout the Decree (see n.2, n.12, n.13, n.18)

Presbyters 'share in the priesthood of Christ'(n.5, n.10).

The decree speaks of the 'priestly office' exercised by the presbyters (n.2). It also speaks of 'priestly preaching'(n.4); the 'priestly function' of ministering the sacraments (n.5); 'priestly obedience'(n.7); 'priestly ministry'(n.8, n.10, n.11, n.15); 'priestly mission'(n.11); 'priestly celibacy'(n.16); and of the 'priesthood'(n.2, n.7, n.8, n.16, n.22)

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