291 Pontiff (*Pontifex*)

Christ is said to be the pontiff because of the four offices which regard the pontiff.

Of which the first is offering for sins, Heb. 5[:1; 7:25]: “For every high priest taken from among men,” and it follows, “them that come to God by him.” Not to be interrupted by a substitute, not to be collected for a bunch. Just as many make against those, Isai. 61[:5]: “Strangers shall stand,” that is, substitutes, “and shall feed your flocks,” that is, your subjects.

The second is the information of the subjects, Acts first chapter [1:1]: “Jesus began to do and to teach.” And the first of Pet. 2[:25]: “For you were as sheep going astray; but you are now converted to the shepherd of your souls.” But alas because it is said of many, Isai. [24:2]: “It shall be as with the people, so with the priest.”

¶ The third is the compassion of the weak, Heb. 4[:15]: “For we have not a high priest, who can not have compassion on our infirmities.” And Heb. last chapter [2:18]: “He is able to succor them also that are tempted.”

¶ The fourth is the collection of benefits, so Christ gives prebends of heaven, but to proven and examined persons, as is evident in Abraham et Isaac, Gen. 27[:21]: “Come hither, that I may feel thee, my son, and may prove whether thou be my son.” Therefore, it is said James 1[:12]: “Blessed is the man that endures temptation; for when he has been proved, he shall receive a crown.”

¶ Again, the mercy of the one holding a prebend, or a curate according to the laws ought not to be given another curate. So, God to the one holding a prebend of the world does not give a prebend to be held.