Worcester F 80 Distinctiones

138 Of the Attendants of Christ (*Ministrorum Christi*)

The merits of the attendants of Christ are to be considered and imitated, and the first merits to be sought consist in gracious action. The first in truth are the merits in the glorious vision. For the near offices in the house are distinguished.

¶ Of which the first are the porters shutting out the unworthy and admitting the worthy. These are the disciplined men, [guarding] the gates of the senses lest sins should enter, 2 Paral. 35[:15]: “The porters kept guard at every gate.” Psal. [100:6]: “The man that walked in the perfect way, he served me.” However, alas, because death entered through the windows. Because anger through touch, gluttony through taste, pride through smell, etc. For the prideful have a profound sense of themselves, envy through sight.

¶ Others are dispensers of the goods of the Lord under the key. The keepers for a place and time distribute the sacraments of the church. The managers, 1 Cor. 4[:1-2]: “Let a man so account of us as of the ministers of Christ,” up to “that a man be found.” Psal. [102:20-21]: “Bless the Lord, all you, his angels. You ministers of his.” The angels are prelates who if they are evil, it follows that they are devils.

¶ Others are cooks preparing the foodstuffs. These are the preachers restoring and inviting to the feast, Acts 6[:4]: “But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.” 2 Tim. 4[:5]: “Fulfill your ministry.”

¶ Others are servers of the table. These are the priests and clerks, Ezech. 44[:15-16]: “The priests, and Levite, they shall come near to my table, and minister unto me.” However, alas, because in Gen. 40[:1, 3] it is said the ministers “the butler and the baker of the king of Egypt,

offended their lord and were sent into prison.”

¶ Others are the directors of music, and the singers. There are the ones who assist steadfastly in the church with the divine praises, 2 Paral. 9[:11]. These are the leaders of the singers, who remained in Exod. [32:1-20].

¶ Sixth are the almoners who take care of the poor, Rom. 15[:25], Paul said, “But now I shall go to Jerusalem, to minister unto the saints.”

¶ Seventh are the chamberlains giving the virtues of hospitality for the lord, [2] Pet. 1[:5]: “Minister in your faith, virtue,” etc.

¶ The rewards of the ministers are to be sought, which are three in the future. The first is honor as far as the place. For honor is to the servant when he is called to the table and to the bed of the lord his king, John 12[:26]: “If any man minister to me,” by serving, “let him follow me,” by imitating, “and where I am,” namely, in heaven, “there also shall my minister be.” Second, there will be honor as far as service. There will be honor

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to the servant as if he were the son of a king ministering to himself, Luke 12[:37]: “He will gird himself, and make them sit down to meat, and passing will minister unto them.” Therefore John 12[:26]: “If any man minister to me, him will my Father honor.”

¶ Third, as far as the food, Num. 18[:31]: “You shall eat the first fruit,” etc.