Worcester F 80 Distinctiones

225 The Priesthood (*Sacerdocium*)

The priesthood. “You are a chosen generation, a kingly priesthood, a holy nation, a purchased people,” [1] Pet. [2:9].

¶ These things belong to you for your commendation, just as on the other hand concerning some it can be said to their confusion:[[1]](#endnote-1) You are a kind rejected, a venal priesthood, an obstinate nation, a people of perdition. In antiquity under the old law, it was not said a “kingly priesthood,” but a “priestly kingdom.” Just as it said in Exod. [15:26; 19:5-6]: “If you will hear and obey my precepts, you will be my peculiar possession and a priestly kingdom.” And the reason is because then the priesthood depended upon the kingdom, just as an adjective upon the substantive. But the apostle Peter imitated this order calling it on the other hand a “kingly priesthood” because now the kingdom depends upon the priesthood, the empire upon the papacy. But far be it that it would be the contrary, as namely in a way it was not a race elected but rejected through the disrepute of the priesthood, not regal but venal through simony, not a holy race but a disreputable race through pride, avarice, and fraudulence, not a people of acquisition but of perdition through malice. Wherefore it follows in the aforesaid authority, [1 Pet. 2:9]: “Who has called you out of darkness into his marvelous light,” because not only has he called you from non-being to the being of nature. But in the being of grace, he recreated you by removing the fault and introducing the grace.

¶ And it ought to be known that concerning the ministry of the priest it requires

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looking into three matters: the order of the priesthood, the obligation of the precept, and the execution of the office. Of which the first requires honor, the second duty, and the third work. Honor requires the ornament of association. Duty inspires the fear of obligation. Work demands the labor of performance. According to this it is proposed here first honor which is employed by priests. Second duty which is imposed upon them. Third work which is exacted, [1] Tim. 5[:17]: “Let the priests that rule well, be esteemed worthy of double honor.”

1. Hugo de Sancto Caro, *Glossae Scripturae Sacrae* on 1 Thess. 5:9 : Vos estis genus abiectum, venale sacerdotium, gens polluta, populus perditionis, quia se, et alios perdunt. Ier. 50.a. Grex perditus factus est populus meus pastores mei seduxerunt eos. [Glossae Scripturae Sacrae-electronicae (Gloss-e) (cnrs.fr)](https://gloss-e.irht.cnrs.fr/php/editions_chapitre.php?id=hug&numLivre=67&chapitre=67_5) [↑](#endnote-ref-1)