Week 9

Episcopal Formation Part 4

# Course Overview

Instructor

Archbishop T Henry Jr

Email

EpiscopalFormation@coaab.org

We begin this week talking about chapter 8 and finishing our talk on Apostolic Succession. Then we will move on to Chapter 9 - Preparation and Ordination.

We will look at the process. We will examine the ceremony itself. Speak about the certificates. We will describe the ordination and enthronement service.

In Chapter 10 - Wandering Bishops we will deal the issue of the problem in the church today and bishops become bishops and drawing people to themselves just to be made bishops.

We will examine why it is proper for us who consider ourselves to be real and authentic bishops to call ourselves wandering bishops.

# Course Materials and other Resources

***Episcopal Formation: The Second Edition,*** by Archbishop Thomas Henry Jr

Additional Reading on the Week 9 Page. Click the links to read the material.

# Read the following Scriptures:

**Acts 1, 13:1-5, 20:28; 1 Timothy 4:14**

# Course Study Guide

Let’s begin by defining a few words that we will be using in our discussion this week.

**Ordination/to Ordain** – The English word has several meanings which we will outline later in the lesson.

**Episcopi Vagantes**– Wandering Bishops. Literally, Bishops without a church home. Dealt with more in this week lesson.

**Consecration** – As it relates to Bishops, ordination and consecration is used interchangeably. It should be noted that Wesley introduce a concept that was not in the Church previous to him. Though the Scripture uses the term Office of Bishop, prior to Reverend Father John Wesley consecration of the “superintendent” for the Americas. Bishops were ordained to an ORDER and not consecrated to an OFFICE.

**Consecration and Enthronement or Installation** – the process of raising a person to the office and order of bishops and that person taking possess of their cathedra and diocese as it rightful bishop.

**Read(-ing) for Orders** – In a time where there was a lack of seminary trained clergy and yet a need for more clergy than the seminary could produce Anglicans, Methodists and others devised a plan called READING FOR ORDERS where a person had a required course of reading and assigned to a mentor who would guide them in the process of clerical formation. After completing the reading assignments which can include a lot of reading material. The candidate for ordination, an ordinand, would take an ordination exam. Once they pass the exam, they would be approved for ordination by the bishop or whatever official in the denomination that did the ordination.

**Read chapters 9 thru 10 of *“Episcopal Formation: The Second Edition”***

**Additional Reading will be available on the Website.**

* Powerful Quote from JustforCatholic.org...

It is wrong to assume that the teaching and practices of the early church were necessarily correct simply because they were temporally closer to the apostles. Error springs up overnight. The apostle Paul was amazed that soon after his departure, the disciples in Galatia quickly fell into error. “I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ” (Galatians 1:6, 7). Now if Christians could be so easily deceived about the most fundamental and cherished truth they possess, the gospel, how easily could they be misled about issues of secondary importance...?

**Preparation and Ordination**

**Preparation –** All clergy should be trained as though one they too will be called to the order of bishops in the Lord’s Church. Sadly, this is not the case everywhere today. Many are being promoted who have not been properly prepared for such a ministry during their times as a deacon [license minister in some churches] and as a presbyter or pastor in the Lord’s Church.

Once the church has called a person to the office of Bishop, the process of vetting should begin. This will help weed out those who God has not called and those who are not qualified for such a ministry in the Lord’s church. The Biblical Qualifications in 1 Timothy 3:1-7

This vetting process should involve background and credit checks and a mental evaluation of the candidate for the office of Bishop. If the vetting process proves the person is worthy of such a high and holy call then the call should be officially extended to the bishop-candidate.

Each episcopal candidate for the once of the Bishop should be assigned an Episcopal Mentor.

**Ordination -** After the vetting and the official election process, the process moves toward ordination/consecration of the candidate as a bishop in the Lord’s Church. The reason why there is an election is for one 1. The Ancient Canons of Nicaea mandates an election by the synod of bishops and 2. Historically speaking one is chosen or appointed to office (election) by an apostle and or the presbytery as Paul told Timothy in 1 Timothy 4:14. We see an election in Acts 1 of Matthias by the brethren in the upper room.

Once elected the primate/presiding bishop/metropolitan shall issue a letter of intent to consecrate to the person being consecrated.

Canon 5 of the Council of Nicaea mandates at Least 3 bishops participate in the consecration of another bishop. However, the earlier Apostolic Canons – Canon 1 mentions all that were needed were 2 or 3 bishops.

The Age of Bishops?

**To ordain -** 11 Hebrew words in the Old Testament, 21 Greek words in Apocrypha and the New Testament, and 3 Latin words in Apocrypha are translated as “to ordain” in the KJV. The English Word has various meanings:

1. To set in order, arrange, prepare: Psalms 132:17; Isaiah 30:33; Hebrews 9:6
2. To establish, institute, bring into being: In 1 Kings 12:32, "Jeroboam ordained a feast in the 8th month" (12:33)
3. To decree, give orders, prescribe: Esther 9:27, "The Jews ordained .... that they would keep these two days according to the writing thereof"
4. To set apart for an office or duty, appoint, destine: "He (Jesus) appointed (the King James Version "ordained") twelve, that they might be with him" (Mark 3:14).
5. To appoint ceremonially to the ministerial or priestly office, to confer holy orders on. It is said by some that this later technical or ecclesiastical sense is never found in the English Versions of the Bible. The nearest approach is (4) above, but the idea of formal or ceremonial setting-apart to office (prominent in its modern usage) is never implied in the word. See 1 Timothy 4:14; Acts 13-5 which seem to seek to this type however.

Ordination:

The act of arranging in regular order, especially the act of investing with ministerial or sacerdotal rank (ordo), the setting-apart for an office in the Christian ministry. The word does not occur in English Version of the Bible.

Scripture speaks of Anointing and the Laying on of Hands what we called ordination today. What the Scripture refers to as the appointing and setting into office.

1. The Seven were chosen by the brethren as men already "full of the Spirit and of wisdom," and were then "appointed" by the Twelve, who prayed and laid their hands upon them (Acts 6:1-6).
2. The call of Barnabas and Saul came direct from God (Acts 13:2, "the work whereunto I have called them"; Acts 13:4, they were "sent forth by the Holy Spirit"). Yet certain prophets and teachers were instructed by the Holy Spirit to "separate" them (i.e. publicly) for their work, which they did by fasting and praying and laying on of hands (Acts 13:3). We know from Acts 14:14 they were both set aside for the work of an apostle.
3. Barnabas and Paul are said to have "ordained," the Revised Version (British and American) "appointed" (cheirotonesantes, "elect," "appoint," without indicating the particular mode of appointment), elders or presbyters in every city with prayers and fasting (Acts 14:23). So Titus was instructed by Paul to "appoint elders in every city" in Crete (Titus 1:5).
4. The work of Timothy as an Apostle, Bishop and Evangelist seem to have been formally recognized in two ways:

(a) by the laying on of the hands of the presbytery (1 Timothy 4:14),

(b) by the laying on of the hands of Paul himself (2 Timothy 1:6).

The words "Lay hands hastily on no man" (1 Timothy 5:22) refers to an act of ordination and the restoring of the penitent

**A valid consecration –** There are 3 things needed for a valid consecration – Matter, Form and Intent. Pp. 65-66

**Per Saltum –** Direct ordination

**Sequential –** going through the process or ranks

**The Rite of Consecration –** pp 68-70

**Enthronement/Installation of a Bishop –** The taking possession of your episcopal see. – pp 70 - 71

# Wandering Bishops

**Episcopi vagantes** (singular: **episcopus vagans**, Latin for **wandering bishops** or **stray bishops**) are persons who have been consecrated as Christian bishops outside the structures and canon law of the established churches, and who are not in communion with any generally recognized diocese.

What are the names of the men many of these claim succession from? P 73

St Cyprian said that if a Bishop breaks from the Church, his episcopacy (and thus his ability to ordain) does not follow him. This is because he held that one must be connected to the church to have the authority and power to ordain. – Abp Thomas Henry, Jr., *Episcopal Formation: The Second Edition* (2016), page 74

Cyprian view and the Augustinian view – p 74

A right way and a wrong way to transfer ordination from church to church

**Course Schedule**

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| Week | Subject | Course Information |
| 1 | The Holy Scriptures | Inspiration, The Canon, Original text |
| 2 | Sacramental Theology | Reformed verses Roman Catholic View of Sacraments |
| 3 | Church History Overview | Ages of Church, Continuity, Reformation |
| Week | Subject | |
| 3 | Exam on Holy Scriptures and Sacraments (Online) Feb 29th | |
| 4 | The Liturgy and the Bishop | |
| 5 | Catholicity: Creed and Apostolic Succession | |
| 6 | Episcopal Formation Part 1 | |
| 7 | Episcopal Formation Part 2 | |
| 8 | Episcopal Formation Part 3 | |
| 9 | Episcopal Formation Part 4 | |
| 10 | Episcopal Formation Part 5 | |
| 11 | Episcopal Formation Part 6 | |
| 12 | Episcopal Formation Part 7 | |
| 13 | Episcopal Formation Part 8 | |
| 14 | Program Review | |

# Homework

**Answer the following:**

Define Per Saltum and Sequential Ordination

What is a Episcopi Vagantes?

Define Ordained and Ordination

Is Vetting important to the Preparation Process?

How many bishops did Nicaea say was needed to consecrate a bishop?

The Qualifications listed in 1 Timothy 3 for a bishop. Name at least 3 of them. Explain the 3 you listed.

What is the differences between the Cyprian and the Augustinian view of ordination?