

## **Priest**

The identity of the priest is one who offers the sacrifice and carries out the religious requirements for his own sake and the sake of the community. Our baptismal call of priesthood permits us to make a sacrifice of our whole life to the Lord, particularly expressed as a dying to ones passions, appetites and willfulness. Our goal is holiness. The believer has the opportunity to daily take up his cross and follow Jesus. We have the privilege of joining our suffering with the suffering of Christ. Our devotional practices are aspects of our priesthood. These include, but are not limited to Mass, confession, Adoration, rosary, Scripture study and meditation.

## **Prophet**

The identity of the prophet is one who hears the Lord (in Scripture, in prayer, by way of dreams or visions and other forms of personal revelation) and then responds according to what he has heard. We believe that the Holy Spirit is continually speaking to all believers. Our prophetic identity allows us to claim that as true. Jesus says that His sheep know His voice. With growth in spiritual maturity we can become better at hearing His voice with greater accuracy and confidence. Our prophetic identity puts us in a position to speak, teach and exhort in the Name of Jesus. The operation of all of the Charismatic gifts listed in 1 Corinthians begin with hearing. This is why 1 Corinthians 14 speaks at length of the gift. "Make love your aim, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, above all, that you should prophesy."

## **King**

The identity of the king is one who exercises Godly authority within the realm he has been given by the Lord. For the young Christian, that realm of kingship is his own life, behavior and attitude. His first task is to bring the reign of Jesus over every aspect of his own life. As he matures, the Lord will extend the boundaries of his realm (think of the prayer of Jabez). He who is faithful in small things will be given rule over greater things. I am a king. Jesus is the King of Kings. He is the perfect model for reigning. He is a servant king. He rules with mercy, righteousness and fairness. He is gentle and humble. As I bring my own life into alignment with the purposes

of God, by the guidance of the Holy Spirit, I must be gentle, patient and merciful with myself in the same way that Jesus is towards me.

### **Son of God**

Romans 8 says that all who are led by the Spirit are sons of God. Son of God is an identity, not a relationship. Our relationship is as a child of God. Our sonship is in Christ. We are sons because we have inherited all that was given Him by virtue of His glorious Passion and Resurrection. Men and women both are Sons of God because Jesus is the Son of God. In fact, we have been given the double portion the same as Jesus because the Father, having given us Jesus, gives us everything else also. The son is trained to work in the Father's business. Our Father provides for our education. He uses every circumstance of our life to teach us Kingdom principles. We learn all of the virtues by trial. Every trial in our life is perfectly planned by the Father for us to grow and mature as sons. He invites us to see our circumstances from his Throne Room perspective. When we do, we begin to cooperate with His plan instead of fussing, fighting and complaining any time we have to endure a circumstance that is uncomfortable or painful. The primary virtue of sonship is the imitation of Jesus. We must look, speak and act like He does.

### **Bride of Christ**

The whole Church together is the Bride of Christ. This is a very important point since the primary virtue of the Bride is unity. Other essential characteristics are intimacy and purity of heart. The culmination of human history will be the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. Jesus is the Bridegroom and we are His bride, women and men together. The Holy Spirit works with us to become the spotless bride, without blemish or wrinkle. That seems so far away from every being possible. But the Holy Spirit does the impossible. It is His work to accomplish. The way we cooperate with Him is through submission and surrender. Spiritually, we stand with arms out and palms up, a posture of receptivity. From our Founding Charism, "Receptivity to the Person and Culture of the Holy Spirit." We cannot do this work. We can only allow it to be done unto us, according to His perfect plan. Obviously, Mother Mary is the perfect role model of receptivity and surrender.