

**Excerpts From Archbishop Naumann's Priesthood Ordination Homily**  
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**June 24, 2006**

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As you are ordained on this Feast of the Birth of St. John the Baptist remember you are called like John to point others not to yourself but to Jesus Christ. May your ordination, like the birth of John the Baptist, unlock the voices of our hearts as the lips of Zechariah were liberated to give God praise! May you also be heralds of His Good News in our world!

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My first point to you is simply center your life on the Eucharist. The Eucharist is at the heart of our identity as priests. Attempt to be aware and present to the great mystery and miracle in which you will be privileged as a priest to participate in a very special way.

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There is nothing greater that you can give your people than the power and presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. Do all that you can to open their hearts to what Jesus offers them through this sacrament.

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No matter how many times you celebrate the Eucharist never allow yourself to grow callous to the miracle by God's providence you are allowed to participate. In each Mass, you are the human instrument that the Lord uses to make His love and mercy revealed on Calvary present again for His people. Never fail to be in awe of the miracle you are allowed to touch and make available for God's people.

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As priests, we are not at all immune to the suffering of this world. However, we are called to witness how Christ can give us joy and hope even in the midst of our own experiences of Calvary.

The call to celibate chastity is in part a conforming yourself to the Lord's cross. There will be times you will ache for the special love and intimacy which is Christian marriage. There will be times you will feel profoundly the loss of renouncing the opportunity to be a biological Father, to be a co-creator with God of a new human life.

Yet, in giving up these great goods of marital love and physical fatherhood, you allow yourself not to belong to any one person but to all of us. You make it possible for the Lord to allow you to become part of hundreds of families and to become a father for thousands of God's children.

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Praise Be Jesus Christ the Great High Priest now and forever and ever! Amen.