

written by Elizabeth SALADINO

Don Domenico Coffani e Don Francesco Bellomo, in the Cathedral of SS. Peter and Paul, received the laying on of hands by S. E. Bishop Luigi Antonio Cantafora.

His Excellency, Luigi Antonio Cantafora , Bishop of the diocese of Lamezia Terme, conferred priestly ordination of deacons Don Domenico Coffani BVM (Parish Pietà) in Lamezia Terme and Don Francesco Bellomo of the Parish " St. John the Baptist " in Gizzeria, and diaconal ordination to the acolytes of the Parish of Saint John Calabria in Lamezia Terme, Francesco Farina and Silvestro Iera of St. John the Baptist Parish in Gizzeria.

It 's has been a great joy for the whole diocesan community to live the celebration of the feast of St. Luke the Evangelist celebrating the two new priests who were surrounded by the love and prayers of their families, the priests of the diocese, the faithful of the parishes of provenance and parishes where they have lent their pastoral service and the many friends, seminarians and not, who will accompany them on this journey so important in their lives in the service of the Gospel and of the Church.

Feast of St. Luca

Priestly Ordinations of Domenico Coffani - Francesco Bellomo and

Diaconate Ordinations of Francesco Farina and Silvestro Iera

Cathedral Church October 18th, 2013

*"Do you praise, O Lord, all your works and thy saints shall bless you. They shall speak of the
the glory of your kingdom and speak of your power. "*

Allow me, dear brothers and sisters give voice to the joy and consolation that abound in our heart for ordering Priests and deacons Francis and Dominic and the diaconal ordination of acolytes Francis and Sylvester. They are "children" of this our Church and today, on the feast of St. Luke, are sorted and sent as the seventy-two disciples of the Lord to work in the field of the Lord. Such is the anxiety we feel in heart, because *"No one man can make Priest another man."* For this reason, before turning word to them, I wish to greet you as a parent, starters and friends, together with the Rector of the Seminar Scaturchio Bishop and to those who took care of the training. For all we invoke the blessing of the Lord. Ordinands, beloved sons, the Word God is giving you today, through the Church, is a delivery that is worth a lifetime, because in it you find the meaning of your new existence. We all know that at the time of Jesus there were several groups that were trying to live the Law and were intensely real and their missions were willing to plow through all the Mediterranean in order to obtain a single proselyte! But this mission had many limitations: one was characterized by food: when they went on a mission, they were not obliged to eat everything that

was offered to them, because the food could not be pure. For this they had to bring money and bag. But in doing so, they sharpened divisions and distances. Jesus, however, recommends to its disciples not to carry money and purse and to eat everything that is offered. That invites his apostles to build not fences or walls of division, but to create a table, a table where every man may sit and satisfy themselves. So, dear ordinands, you are not sent into the world and in the Church to serve the division, but to build communion. In fact, Jesus sends the disciples two by two. This promotes the help and teaches all us that the mission is not individual, but Community Church. You are not sent to retire to the sacristy and safe places of the sacred, but to prepare the Lord's table, the table of the Word and of the Bread, to the far and to those who do not know God. What a wonderful adventure! We are sent *"To bring glad tidings to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and the blind new sight, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord."* In fact, *"God's intention is that all ... men live happy in the love of Him, his project then is to eliminate the death forever, to dry the tears of every face, to eradicate the condition dishonorable of his people"* (Benedict XVI, Homily 9.10.2011). And we, as servants of God, we cannot have other goals in life. Therefore, there is demanded to us a total surrender. In this regard, we echo as Papa Francesco says: *"It is a Church that welcomes and does not exclude, a Church of the people and not for couch potatoes drawing-room. A Church that with the Gospel, moves toward the man. That did not expect, but go, even at the risk of being damaged."* In this church you are called to work. But what will be the resource, the engine of our actions? He tells us in today's Gospel: the prayer. *"Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest"*. When sending the disciples first command is prayer. Dear children remember that it is the soul of every apostolate. Without considerable time spent in prayer, forces are less with the risk to become bureaucrats and not men of God *"Prayer is one of the most difficult actions. Prayer is everything that's why it costs much. When we hear becoming a "pontifex" between God and men, a means of communication, our Prayer has a wider breath, it becomes divinely and humanly great. Then the priest is truly the "pontifex" of people, and his prayer is a "bridge" from earth to heaven."* Moreover, there is no mission, there is no evangelism that is not preceded by a supplication to God to *"open the door of the preaching and so we can announce the mystery of Christ"* (Col 4:3). I make my own the words of St. Gregory the Great to comment this passage of the Gospel.

"For a great harvest workers are few. Scarcity of this we can not speak without deep sadness, because there are people who would listen to the good word, but lack the preachers. Here, the world is full of priests, and yet is very rarely those who work in the harvest of Lord. We have taken the office priests, but we do not do the works that the office entails." And yet Francis Pope: "Be Priests, pastors, shepherds self-managers the sacred. Otherwise, the pastor finds "lukewarm, I forget the suffering, seduced by the prospect of career and money 'in order to be "a official, a cleric of the state, worried more about himself and the organization structures, that the true good of the people of God. "Consequence of this community are sessions, real estate, payroll few rewards who do not live the audacity of the gospel. The mission of the pastor is not, however, exempt from trials. The disciples are sent to proclaim the Kingdom and peace "as lambs among wolves ": they are without defenses, without means and without pretension. "The envoy appearance must be a sign that the he announces he lives it firsthand. The style of the one who proclaims the Gospel is constitutive ad itself"(Enzo Bianchi). What will be the style of a minister of God? Papa Francesco sums it up with these words: *"willingness to obedience, lowering, total self-giving."* That's why before the imposition of hands and the prayer of consecration, you assume respectively, according to your order, the commitments that express the style of life that you hire: prayer and ardent missionary, sacramental life and delivery of yourselves. But how can we make concrete the delivery of ourselves? Following the Word of the Lord, we deliver ourselves in the promise of celibacy, poverty, standard of living and obedience that comes from self-detachment and is made liturgically by the promise in the hands the Bishop. Celibacy is in particular a yes to life, love and freedom loving Christian every brother and sister as such. It is not a waiver sad, but it is the renunciation of

love to allow oneself to be fully and totally by Love for God and our brothers and sisters! We abandon any compromise that leaves holed up in our hearts the spirit of the world! For this reason, the style of a minister of God is also a spirit of humility and of simplicity that makes us be peacemakers. Some fathers have a lot to teach us about the style and choices! Even a mild character helps a lot : *"A good character is a true treasure in life. Sometimes good priests for their virtue and their zeal halve the effectiveness of the ministry for their temperament impatient, unfriendly, not balanced,"* said the Blessed John Paul II. In addition, the feast of St. Luke the Evangelist, called by Dante scriba mansuetudinis Christi, place these orders in a specific context. Luke helps us to know the smile of God, and his mercy, but in same time, his Gospel has a strong missionar, founded on the evangelical radicalism. Tenderness, Gospel radicalism and are also distinctive mission of each priests and deacons. Dear Francis, Dominic, Francis and Sylvester, the Word of God today there was announced accompany you always in your ministry and shoots with fruit. Accompany you through the intercession of St. Luca and the Virgin Mary, guarded by the Church that today welcomes the order of priesthood and the diaconate. For this reason, your training, like that of all the priests and deacons, does not end here, but rather must be treated with greater commitment from today. Be the missionaries in our own land, gentleness and tenderness of Christ and the power of the Gospel. All are likely to encounter in you the face of Christ and the mercy of Father. May the Lord bring to fulfillment the wonderful work that begins today in you