

ABSTRACT

This dissertation proposes a liturgical approach to priestly formation, arguing that the pattern of our worship forms those preparing for priestly ministry in the habit of setting Christ before them as the pattern of their calling. Beginning with an exploring of vocation and the nature of priestly ministry, the insights of liturgical theology are sought in order to highlight the formational role of liturgy and the particular relevance this has for the formation of priests. It is argued that our participation in worship is an entrance into the studio of God, who works on us as we participate in Christ, who is the Liturgy. Attending to the nature of our liturgical participation highlights the ways in which liturgical formation continues to bear fruit for priests, who have been charged to continually stir up the gift of God, always seeking to surrender their lives to Christ, and to reorder, reorient and repattern their ministry after the pattern of Christ, who is the pattern of our worship.