

Clergy vs. Priests

What the Church needs is
not more clergy,
but more priests.

Clergy constitute a class;
priests form a community.
Clergy are set apart;
priests prefer involvement.

Clergy receive privileges;
priests exercise ministries.
Clergy reek of rank and status;
priests perform a service.

Clerical demeanor is proper;
priestly dedication is bold.
The clerical title is "Reverend;"
they call a priest "Father."

Clerical power is for commanding;
priestly power is for leading.
Clerical clothes call attention
to the wearers;
priests put on vestments
for worshippers.

Clergy prize clarity
(so you know your place);
priests preach charity
(so you see your worth).

Clergy are like kings:
they have to rule;
Priests are like shepherds;
they must be pastoral.

Clergy are like foremen:
they have to be in charge.
Priests are like farmers:
they must till the soil.

Society invites clergy
for pomp and circumstance.
Priests are neglected
on issues of importance.

Why do demagogues
court the clergy,
but get annoyed
by priests?

Oscar Romero was safe
as a member of the clergy;
he became dangerous
when he acted as a priest.

The best clergy:
those who do not like
to be clerics.
The worst priests:
those who want merely
to be clergy.

Today, one is not a priest
without being a cleric.
Was it so yesterday?
What will it be
tomorrow?

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