

# If Any Ordained Priest

by St. Benedict of Nursia

---

*An ordained priest seeking to join the monastery must observe the whole discipline of the Rule and not expect special treatment.*

**Scripture:** Matthew 26:50, Philippians 2:3, James 4:10, 1 Peter 5:5

**Topics:** "Monastic Life", "Clerical Discipline"

---

## Description

St. Benedict of Nursia emphasizes the importance of discernment and commitment for ordained priests seeking to join the monastery. He advises that permission should not be granted too readily, and those persistent in their request must be willing to observe the entire discipline of the Rule without any exceptions. While some privileges may be granted, such as standing next to the Abbot and celebrating Mass, it is crucial for the priest to remember their humility and submission to the Rule. Additionally, clerics desiring to join must also promise to adhere to the Rule and stability, being placed in a middle rank within the monastery.

---

## Transcript

If any ordained priest  
should ask to be received into the monastery,  
permission shall not be granted too readily.  
But if he is quite persistent in his request,  
let him know  
that he will have to observe the whole discipline of the Rule  
and that nothing will be relaxed in his favor,  
that it may be as it is written:  
"Friend, for what have you come (Matt. 26:50)?"  
It shall be granted him, however, to stand next after the Abbot

and to give blessings and to celebrate Mass,  
but only by order of the Abbot.  
Without such order let him not make any exceptions for himself,  
knowing that he is subject to the discipline of the Rule;  
but rather let him give an example of humility to all.  
If there happens to be question of an appointment  
or of some business in the monastery,  
let him expect the rank due him  
according to the date of his entrance into the monastery,  
and not the place granted him  
out of reverence for the priesthood.  
If any clerics, moved by the same desire,  
should wish to join the monastery,  
let them be placed in a middle rank.  
But they too are to be admitted only if they promise  
observance of the Rule and stability.

---

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/st-benedict-of-nursia/if-any-ordained-priest/>

# *Grow in Your Walk with Christ*

---

Listen and read messages that will stir your heart for Christ and point you to deeper repentance and devotion.

- 50,000+ Sermons from speakers past and present
- 3,900+ Classic Christian Books freely readable online
- 1,200+ Bible Translations and Commentaries
- Over 450k forum posts — Join our vibrant online Christian forum

**[www.sermonindex.net](http://www.sermonindex.net)**