

What's in a Name?

“Association of Pittsburgh Priests” (APP) was launched in 1966 by ordained Diocesan priests in Pittsburgh as a way of supporting each other in implementing Church reform in the spirit of the Second Vatican Council and in working for a more just and peaceful world. As decades passed, they provided bold leadership and inspiration to area Faithful with a similar passion. In 1993 APP decided to admit married priests, religious, and laity into their ranks.

Since then each Bishop strongly pushed for a name change, often saying that they did not speak for all ordained priests and that the name confused the Faithful. APP refused. Why?

By their Baptism, all Catholics are anointed into the priesthood of Christ, having a role in His saving activity, in Christ's Mystical Body present and active today. As participants in the Priesthood of the Faithful, they are called to be other Christs through whom God's grace flows into their families, jobs, communities, and wherever they find themselves. Connecting heaven and earth, their faithful witness manifests God's reign of compassion, mercy, and loving service.

Unfortunately, too few Catholics understand this. The problem is not with our name, but with the failure of the Church to promulgate this teaching.

We are proudly and humbly the “Association of Pittsburgh Priests!”

“Though they differ from one another in essence and not only in degree, the common priesthood of the faithful and the ministerial or hierarchical priesthood are nonetheless interrelated. Each of them in its own special way is a participation in the one priesthood of Christ. The ministerial priest, by the sacred power he enjoys, molds and rules the priestly people. Acting in the person of Christ, he brings about the Eucharistic Sacrifice, and offers it to God in the name of all the people. For their part, the faithful join in the offering of the Eucharist by virtue of their royal priesthood. They likewise exercise the priesthood by receiving the sacrament, by prayer and thanksgiving, by the witness of a holy life, and by self-denial and active charity.”

Lumen Gentium, #10