Q1. (Faith) One of the Seven Sacraments of the Catholic Church is the Sacrament of Holy Orders for the ordination of deacons, priests, and bishops. How does the ordination of the first deacons in this chapter help your understanding of the Biblical foundation of the Sacraments?

They presented these men to the apostles who prayed and laid hands on them V.6

Q2. (Hope) In the description of the accusations against Stephen, one of the first deacons ordained in the Church, it speaks of Stephen being “filled with grace and power”. What hope does this give you that our clergy, having received the Sacrament of Holy Orders, actually have the power of Christ to effect the promises Our Lord made such as forgiving sins, and healing the sick?

CCC1116

Sacraments are "powers that comes forth" from the Body of Christ, which is ever-living and life-giving. They are actions of the Holy Spirit at work in his Body, the Church. They are "the masterworks of God" in the new and everlasting covenant.

Q3. (Love) One of the Corporal Works of Mercy is feeding the hungry. How do you see the Church in the very earliest days of its formation attending to the Corporal Works of Mercy in this chapter?

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The Bible specifically describes the Sacrament of Holy Orders in the ordination of the first deacons. The Church did not invent the Sacraments. They were instituted by Christ.

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Being filled with Grace and power is not something I can accomplish on my own. It is something conferred by God through the administration of the Sacraments. I believe that the Sacraments confer real Grace and real powers to those who receive them for the tasks they are intended to accomplish.

A3. (Love) One of the Corporal Works of Mercy is feeding the hungry. How do you see the Church in the very earliest days of its formation attending to the Corporal Works of Mercy in this chapter?

The early Church was active in taking care of the needs of the poor. When the needy among the Hellenists were being neglected, action was taken to be sure they were cared for.

So the Twelve called together the community of the disciples and said, “It is not right for us to neglect the word of God to serve at table. Brothers, select from among you seven reputable men, filled with the Spirit and wisdom, whom we shall appoint to this task, V.2-3

Now Stephen, filled with grace and power, was working great wonders and signs among the people. V.8