

2.9.73: 12.30 p.m.

DRAFT TO BE INSERTED BETWEEN PARAS. 11 and 12

His oversight of the local Church bears with it the office of forming the Church into a community of faith through the preaching of the word (pre-eminently at the Eucharist but also in season and out of season as opportunity affords.) His ministry of the sacraments must be seen as continuous with his ministry of the word, since through both the Christian encounters the living Word of God. His central place in the Christian community involves him in being not only the person who normally administers baptism, but also the one who admits converts to the communion of the faithful and re-admits those who have fallen away through sin or unbelief. The authority to pronounce God's forgiveness of sin, given to him at his ordination is exercised by him to assist Christians to a closer communion with God and with his fellow men through Christ and to assure them of God's continuing love and mercy.

At times our traditions have emphasised one or other of these two activities. Both of these activities, however, must be seen as united in the minister's total service to the Church.