

The Priesthood of all believers - power of blessing

In the Roman Catholic perspective, the theological basis for the belief that a layperson can offer blessings draws upon the principles of the common priesthood of the faithful, as outlined in the Second Vatican Council's document, "Lumen Gentium," and the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC). This teaching is rooted in biblical passages that emphasize the role of the laity in the Church and their participation in the priesthood of Christ. Here's a theological argument, supported by relevant Bible verses and references to the CCC:

Theological Argument:

- The Common Priesthood of the Faithful:** The foundation for the idea that laypersons can offer blessings in the Roman Catholic perspective lies in the doctrine of the common priesthood of the faithful. This teaching, as outlined in "Lumen Gentium" (Chapter IV), asserts that all baptized Catholics share in the priesthood of Christ, not in the ministerial priesthood of ordained clergy but in a participatory way.
- Biblical Support:** This common priesthood is rooted in the Bible, which affirms the priesthood of all believers. For example:
 - 1 Peter 2:9** states, "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." This verse underscores the idea of the laity as a "royal priesthood."
 - Revelation 1:6** speaks of God making His people "a kingdom, priests to his God and Father."
 - Hebrews 13:15-16** encourages all believers to offer spiritual sacrifices and praises to God, reflecting the role of priests in worship.
- CCC References:** The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) echoes this teaching and includes references to the common priesthood of the faithful. Here are some relevant passages from the CCC:
 - CCC 901: "Hence the laity, dedicated as they are to Christ and anointed by the Holy Spirit, are marvellously called and prepared so that even richer fruits of the Spirit may be produced in them. For all their works, prayers, and apostolic undertakings, family and married life, daily work, relaxation of mind and body, if they are accomplished in the Spirit—indeed even the hardships of life if patiently borne—all these become spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. In the celebration of the Eucharist these may most fittingly be offered to the Father along with the body of the Lord."
 - CCC 1268: "The baptized have become 'living stones' to be 'built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood.'"

Conclusion:

The theological argument in the Roman Catholic perspective is based on the belief in the common priesthood of the faithful, which finds support in both biblical passages and the teachings of the Second Vatican Council and the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Laypersons can offer blessings as a way to exercise their priestly role in offering prayers and spiritual sacrifices to God, as long as these blessings do not encroach on the specific sacramental blessings reserved for ordained clergy.