

Statement by the Moderator to the newly-ordained Minister

Pauline, today we haven't ordained you to ministry;
that happened at your baptism.

We haven't ordained you to be a caring person;
you're already called to be that.

We haven't ordained you to serve the Church in committees,
activities, organisation;
that's already implied in your membership.

We haven't ordained you to become involved in social issues,
ecology, race, politics, revolution, for that's laid upon every
Christian.

We have ordained you to something smaller and less
spectacular:

- to read and interpret those sacred stories of our community so
that they
 speak a word to people today
- to remember and practice those rituals and rites of meaning
that in their
 poetry address humanity at the level where change operates
- to foster in community through word and sacraments that
encounter with
 truth which set men and women free to minister as the Body of
Christ.

We have ordained you to the ministry of word and sacraments
and to that of servanthood.

May God grant you grace not to betray but to uphold it; not to
deny but affirm it, through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom be glory for ever and ever.

Amen.