

Ministry in the Thought of St. Basil the Great and Gregory of Nazianzus

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Abstract

The study aims to present and compare how St. Basil the Great and Gregory of Nazianzus explain ministry. It is an attempt to summarize their thoughts on priesthood (St. Basil) and their writings on ministry (St. Gregory), in relation with the events that marked their lives. Their experiences are essential for the way they portray the mission of the priest. While having common features, their presentations know differences that are useful today for a better understanding of ordination and priesthood. The relation between institution and charisma is made by introducing the paradigm of discipleship. Priests are disciples of Christ, not officials of an institutional organization, they are sanctified through ordination and they are called to become Saints. They are to be, on public and personal levels, instruments of the Holy Spirit. The last part of the study opens a discussion on the influence the two Hierarchs on modern writings about priesthood.