

# Young Apprentices

A RESOURCE FOR THE OCIA

## INQUIRY SESSION: CHURCH STRUCTURE AND LEADERSHIP



### My Story

Families and schools each have their own kind of leadership. Parents and other adults lead families. Principals and teachers lead schools. This makes sense, because adults usually have more wisdom and experience.



### AND THINK

- *When have your parents or other adult family members shown wisdom in making a family decision?*
- *What teachers would you call wise? Why?*



### God's Story

The Catholic Church can trace its beginning back to Matthew 16:18, when Jesus said to Peter, "... [Y]ou are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, ..."

The Church has many members and exists throughout the world. It needs good leadership. The pope, bishops, priests, and deacons lead the Church, helping its members serve Christ and his Gospel of love.

The pope is the supreme head of the worldwide Catholic Church. Bishops are appointed by the pope to lead a diocese, a group of parishes. Priests support bishops by pastoring the parishes in a diocese. Deacons support priests in their ministry to the parish. Many other women, men, and children support the deacons and priests by being a part of various Church ministries.



### Our Response

Learn more about the universal (worldwide), diocesan, and local (parish) Catholic Church.



- *Go to [vatican.va](http://vatican.va) to learn more about the pope and the worldwide Catholic Church.*
- *Use the internet or your diocesan newspaper to learn more about your bishop and your diocese.*
- *Read the parish bulletin to learn about the leadership and work of your parish.*

## Sharing God's Word

With your family, read one or more of the Scriptures listed below. They are readings often used at the ordination of bishops, priests, and deacons. Discuss what each reading says about leaders of the Church. How are they to act? What are they to do?

**Jeremiah 1:4-9**

**1 Peter 5:1-4**

**Matthew 20:25b-28**

The above readings are available at  
[usccb.org/bible/readings](http://usccb.org/bible/readings).

## Faith Words

### diocese

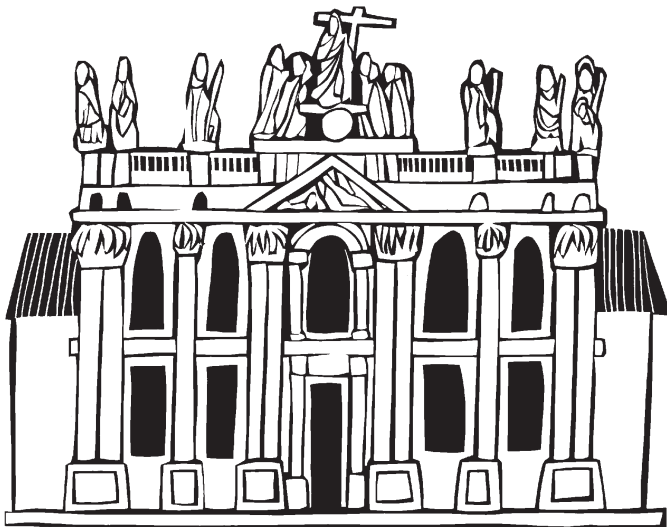
A diocese is a group of Catholic communities called *parishes* that exist within specific geographical boundaries.

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### Holy Orders

The Sacrament of Holy Orders is one of the two Sacraments at the Service of Communion. In Holy Orders baptized men are ordained to serve and lead the Church.

## Feast Days: The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica



**ST. JOHN LATERAN**

Throughout the Church year Catholics celebrate solemnities, feasts, and memorials in honor of events in the lives of Jesus, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the saints. In addition, there are feasts that celebrate other important events in the life of the Church. One such feast is the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica, celebrated on November 9. The Lateran Basilica, also known as Saint John Lateran Basilica, is the pope's cathedral. It is in Rome. On its exterior is written *omnium ecclesiarum Urbis et Orbis mater et caput*, which means "mother and head of all churches of Rome and the world." To take a virtual tour of the Lateran Basilica, go to [vatican.va](http://vatican.va).