

Leaders of the Catholic Church

Q. 150. Does the Catholic Church have leaders?

Yes, in God's plan, the Catholic Church is a hierarchical society. It is a people guided by its bishops, who are in union with the Pope, the Bishop of Rome.

By means of the sacrament of Holy Orders, bishops (the successors of the Apostles) and priests have received the powers of Jesus Christ. Bishops and priests, together with deacons, are those in the Church who have been given the authority to teach for Christ, to distribute His sacramental graces to mankind, and to watch over His flock. Christ continues His work in the Church, in a special way, through the ministry of His bishops, priests, and deacons.

Sacred Scripture

If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. *Matthew 18:17*

Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God; consider the outcome of their life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever. *Hebrews 13:7-8*

Catechism of the Catholic Church

876 Intrinsically linked to the sacramental nature of ecclesial ministry is *its character as service*. Entirely dependent on Christ who gives mission and authority, ministers are truly “slaves of Christ,”¹ in the image of him who freely took “the form of a slave” for us.² Because the word and grace of which they are ministers are not their own, but are given to them by Christ for the sake of others, they must freely become the slaves of all.³

Vatican Council II

“This Church, constituted and organized as a society in the present world, subsists in the Catholic Church, which is governed by the successor of Peter and by the bishops in communion with him. Nevertheless, many elements of sanctification and of truth are found outside its visible confines. Since these are gifts belonging to the Church of Christ, they are forces impelling towards Catholic unity. *The Church, 8*

“This sacred synod, following in the steps of the First Vatican Council, teaches and declares with it that Jesus Christ, the eternal pastor, set up the holy Church by entrusting the apostles with their mission as he himself had been sent by the Father (cf. Jn. 20:21). He willed that their successors, the bishops namely, should be the shepherds in his Church until the end of the world. In order that the episcopate itself, however, might be one and undivided he put Peter at the head of the other apostles, and in him he set up a lasting and visible source and foundation of the unity both of faith and of communion.” *The Church, 18*

Summary Prayer

Jesus our High Priest, on Holy Thursday we celebrate the memory of the first Eucharist, at which time You shared with Your Apostles, and now share with Your bishops and priests, Your offices of priestly service in Your

For commentaries on each question with Cardinal Arinze, Sr. John Vianney and Fr. Straub (in Spanish), see Appendix E.

Church. Help bishops and priests to renew their dedication to You as priests of Your New Covenant.

May their word and example inspire and guide the Church, may they and all those entrusted to their care come to the joy of everlasting life. Enrich them with the gifts and virtues of true apostles for the good of Your people. You have chosen them to be shepherds of Your flock in the tradition of the Apostles. By governing with fidelity those entrusted to their care, may they guide Your Church as a sign of salvation for the world.

Give the fullness of Your blessing to the College of Bishops and keep all those entrusted to their care faithful to the teachings of the Apostles. We ask this through the power of Your most Precious Blood. Amen.

Catechism by Diagram

#C15-79



The Catholic Church, a Society with Leaders. By God's design, the Catholic Church is a society with leaders—with a hierarchy. The Church is a people guided by the bishops who are in union with the Pope. Christ (large cross) conferred on the Apostles and their successors the duty of teaching, sanctifying, and ruling in His name and power. The Pope is the Bishop of Rome (St. Peter's Basilica), the Vicar of Christ. He is the successor to the office of Peter. The whole flock of Christ is in his care and under his guidance, and he is the head (tiara) of the College of the Bishops (miters). The Pope is the highest Christian teaching authority in the world; he is the supreme ruler or shepherd of the Catholic Church.

#C15-33



Q. 151. Who is the Holy Father, the Pope?

Our Holy Father, the Pope, the Bishop of Rome, is the Vicar of Christ. He is the successor of Peter and holds the office of supreme authority over all the Church, appointed by Christ for the guidance and care of His flock.

The Pope is the head of the College of Bishops. Our Lord solemnly told Peter he was to be supreme shepherd, the head of the Church. “And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the powers of death shall not prevail against it” (Matthew 16:18).

Christ gave Peter the holy task of giving the entire People of God His teaching and His grace. After His Resurrection Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, ‘Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.’ He said to him, ‘Feed my lambs.’ A second time he said to him, ‘Simon, son of John, do you love me?’ He said to him, ‘Yes, Lord; You know that I love you.’ He said to him, “Tend my sheep” (John 21:15-16).

The Pope, as the successor of St. Peter, holds the highest Christian teaching authority in the world; he is the supreme shepherd of the Catholic Church.

Catechism of the Catholic Church

881 The Lord made Simon alone, whom he named Peter, the “rock” of his Church. He gave him the keys of his Church and instituted him shepherd of the whole flock.¹ “The office of binding and loosing which was given to Peter was also assigned to the college of apostles united to its head.”² This pastoral office of Peter and the other apostles belongs to the Church’s very foundation and is continued by the bishops under the primacy of the Pope.

For commentaries on each question with Cardinal Arinze, Sr. John Vianney and Fr. Straub (in Spanish), see Appendix E.

Splendor of Truth

At all times, but particularly in the last two centuries, the Popes, whether individually or together with the College of Bishops, have developed and proposed a moral teaching regarding the many different spheres of human life. In Christ's name and with his authority they have exhorted, passed judgment and explained. In their efforts on behalf of humanity, in fidelity to their mission, they have confirmed, supported and consoled. With the guarantee of assistance from the Spirit of truth they have contributed to a better understanding of moral demands in the areas of human sexuality, the family, and social, economic and political life. In the tradition of the Church and in the history of humanity, their teaching represents a constant deepening of knowledge with regard to morality. (*section 4*)

Vatican Council II

In this Church of Christ the Roman Pontiff, as the successor of Peter, to whom Christ entrusted the care of his sheep and his lambs, has been granted by God supreme, full, immediate and universal power in the care of souls. As pastor of all the faithful his mission is to promote the common good of the universal Church and the particular good of all the churches. He is therefore endowed with the primacy of ordinary power over all the churches. *Bishops, 2*

In exercising his supreme, full and immediate authority over the universal Church the Roman Pontiff employs the various departments of the Roman Curia, which act in his name and by his authority for the good of the churches and in the service of the sacred pastors. *Bishops, 9*

Catechism by Diagram

#C15-80



The Church Gives Christian Witness. Jesus told Peter that he was to be the supreme shepherd, the head of His Church: “You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church” (rock, St. Peter’s Basilica), “and the powers of death (jagged arrows) shall not prevail against it” (Matthew 16:18). The Catholic Church has the deposit of faith, the sacraments, and the ministries which it inherited from the Apostles (tiara). Through these gifts of God, the Church is able to act and grow as a community in Christ, by serving mankind and giving men His saving word and activity. The Church witnesses to Christ in every part of the world (boat of the missionary).

Summary Prayer

Heavenly Father, look with love on our Pope, Your appointed successor to St. Peter, on whom You built Your Church. Assist him in his position as the visible center and foundation of our unity in faith and love. May his word and example inspire and guide the Church, and may he and all those who are entrusted to his care come to the joy of everlasting life. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord. Amen.

#C15-38

**Q. 152. Who are the bishops of the Church?**

The Pope is the successor of St. Peter; the Catholic bishops are the successors of the Apostles. Collectively, the bishops constitute what is known as the Episcopal College, with the Pope as its head.

Christ made the Apostles as a stable group, or college. They were jointly responsible for spreading the Gospel of Christ in the whole world. To the whole college, Christ addressed His great missionary command, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age” (Matthew 28:19-20).

Jesus said to Peter, “But I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail; and when you have turned again, strengthen your brethren” (Luke 22:32).

When the first council of the Church was held in Jerusalem in the first century, the Apostles, as a college, decided the question whether Jewish customs should be imposed on non-Jewish converts: “For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things: that you abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols and from blood and from what

For commentaries on each question with Cardinal Arinze, Sr. John Vianney and Fr. Straub (in Spanish), see Appendix E.

Sacred Scripture

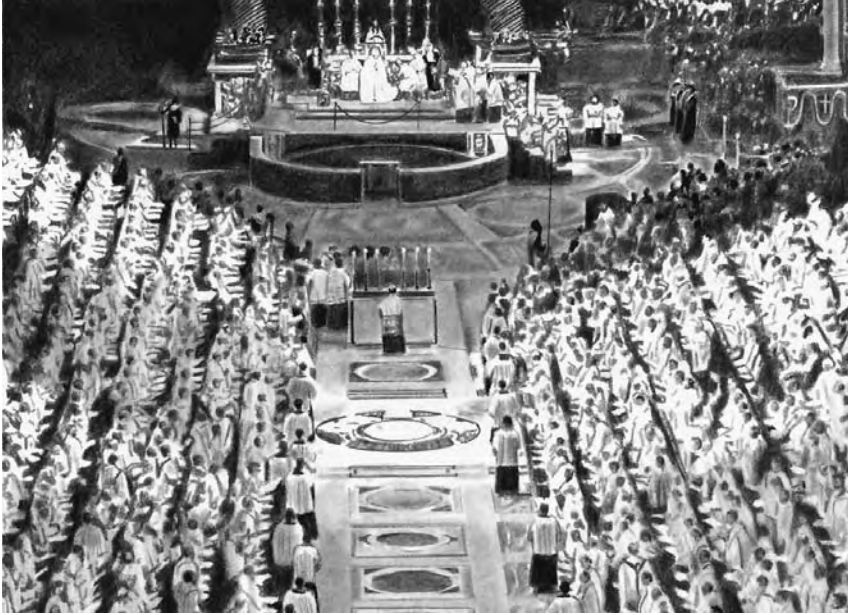
Q. 152. Mt 10:1; Jn 20:19-23; Acts 20:17, 28.

Catechism of the Catholic Church

Q. 152. Paragraphs 880-893, 896, 1576.

is strangled and from unchastity. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell” (Acts 15:28-29).

#C15-31



Sacred Scripture

And with great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. *Acts 4:33*

For a bishop, as God’s steward, must be blameless;... a lover of goodness, master of himself, upright, holy, and self-controlled; he must hold firm to the sure word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to confute those who contradict it. *Titus 1:7, 9*

Catechism of the Catholic Church

862 “Just as the office which the Lord confided to Peter alone, as first of the apostles, destined to be transmitted to his successors, is a permanent one, so also endures the office, which the apostles received, of shepherding the Church, a charge destined to be exercised without interruption by the sacred order of bishops.”⁷¹ Hence the Church teaches that “the bishops have by divine institution taken the place of the apostles as pastors of the Church, in such wise that whoever listens to them is listening to Christ and whoever despises them despises Christ and him who sent Christ.”⁷²

Splendor of Truth

“For the bishops are the heralds of the faith who bring new disciples to Christ. They are authentic teachers, that is, teachers endowed with the authority of Christ, who preach to the people entrusted to them the faith to be believed and put into practice; they illustrate this faith in the light of the Holy Spirit, drawing out of the treasury of Revelation things old and new (cf. Mt 13:52); they make it bear fruit and they vigilantly ward off errors that are threatening their flock (cf. 2 Tim 4:1-4).” (section 114)

Vatican Council II

By preaching everywhere the Gospel (cf. Mk. 16:20), welcomed and received under the influence of the Holy Spirit by those who hear it, the apostles gather together the universal Church, which the Lord founded upon the apostles and built upon blessed Peter their leader, the chief cornerstone being Christ Jesus himself (cf. Apoc. 21:14; Mt. 16:18; Eph. 2:20). *The Church, 19*

Moreover, just as the office which the Lord confided to Peter alone, as first of the apostles, destined to be transmitted to his successors, is a permanent one, so also endures the office, which the apostles received, of shepherding the Church, a charge destined to be exercised without interruption by the sacred order of bishops. The sacred synod consequently teaches that the bishops have by divine institution taken the place of the apostles as pastors of the Church, in such wise that whoever listens to them is listening to Christ and whoever despises them despises Christ and him who sent Christ (cf. Lk. 10:16). *The Church, 20*

In the person of the bishops, then, to whom the priests render assistance, the Lord Jesus Christ, supreme high priest, is present in the midst of the faithful. *The Church, 21*

The bishop, invested with the fullness of the sacrament of Orders, “is the steward of the grace of the supreme priesthood,” above all in the Eucharist, which he himself offers, or ensures that it is offered, from which the Church ever derives its life and on which it thrives. *The Church, 26*

Summary Prayer

God, Eternal Shepherd, You tend Your Church in many ways and rule us with love. Help Your chosen servants, the bishops of Your Church as pastors for Christ, to watch over Your flock. Help them to be faithful teachers, wise administrators, and holy priests. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord, to Whom with You and the Holy Spirit be all honor and glory. Amen.

Doctrine • Moral • Worship Exercise (see Appendix B for answer key)

1. What is the role of the Pope in the Church? Who gives him his authority?
2. How can you show your loyalty and obedience to the Pope in your family, school, workplace, and parish community?
3. Thank Jesus for giving us a Pope to lead us to unity with Him and with each other. Pray every day for the intentions of our Holy Father and for his spiritual and physical well being.

#A18-20



Q. 153. What are the chief responsibilities of the Pope and bishops of the Catholic Church?

The chief responsibilities of the Pope and the bishops are to teach, sanctify, and govern the People of God. This authority and power was given to them by Jesus, beginning with that received by St. Peter and the other Apostles.

After His Resurrection, Jesus demanded of Peter a profession of love. “He said to him the third time, ‘Simon, son of John, do you love me?’ ...And he said to him, ‘Lord you know everything; you know that I love you.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Feed my sheep’” (John 21:17).

Jesus willed that the bishops, the successors of the Apostles, should be shepherds in His Church. He placed Peter over the other Apostles and instituted him as a permanent source and foundation of unity, faith, and fellowship.

“And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the powers of death shall not prevail against it. I will give you the the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven” (Matthew 16:18-19).

The Roman Pontiff, the head of the College of Bishops, is guaranteed doctrinal infallibility in virtue of his office, when, as the supreme shepherd and teacher of all the faithful, he proclaims by a definitive act some doctrine of faith and morals.

Infallibility is a gift of the Holy Spirit which protects the Church’s faith from error. The Holy Spirit remains in the Catholic Church to enable it to continue the saving work of Jesus in the world. He guides the bishops, priests, and deacons in their holy work of teaching Christ’s doctrine, shepherding souls, and giving grace to the people through the sacraments.

When the Catholic Church teaches solemnly in the name of God in matters of faith and morals, the teaching is infallible; that is, it cannot be mistaken. When the Pope teaches solemnly as head of the Church, or when bishops assembled with the Pope in council solemnly pronounce upon a matter of faith or morals, that doctrine is the infallible teaching of the Church. It must receive the assent of faith.

Moreover, when the Pope and the bishops throughout the world who are in union with him teach that a certain doctrine has been revealed by God, this teaching is infallible, even though it has not been solemnly defined, for it is still Christ teaching through His universal Church. When the Pope speaks to the whole Church on a matter of faith or morals, but not *ex cathedra*, his teaching, nevertheless, demands respect, obedience, and assent.

Sacred Scripture

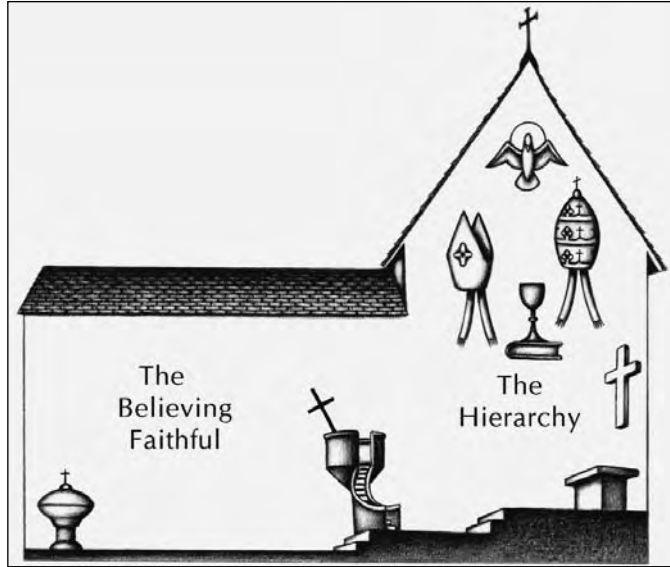
“Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail; and when you have turned again, strengthen your brethren.” *Luke 22:31-32*

For commentaries on each question with Cardinal Arinze, Sr. John Vianney and Fr. Straub (in Spanish), see Appendix E.

Follow the pattern of the sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus; guard the truth that has been entrusted to you by the Holy Spirit who dwells within us. *2 Timothy 1:13-14*

Catechism by Diagram

#C15-61



The Catholic Church. The Catholic Church is the community of all baptized persons (baptismal font) who are united in the same true faith (pulpit and cross), the same sacrifice (altar), the same sacraments (altar, baptismal font), and governed by the same authority of the Sovereign Pontiff (tiara) and the bishops who are in communion with him (miter). The Pope and the bishops make up the hierarchy. They are assisted by the priests, who share the powers of the priesthood (chalice, gospel book). All have the same Christ-life of grace (cross) which is given to them by the Holy Spirit (dove), the Sanctifier. The believing laity have a true apostolate in bringing the Gospel and holiness to men. Incorporated into Christ's Mystical Body through Baptism and Confirmation, they are assigned to this apostolate by the Lord Himself.

Catechism of the Catholic Church

894 “The bishops, as vicars and legates of Christ, govern the particular Churches assigned to them by their counsels, exhortations, and example, but over and above that also by the authority and sacred power” which indeed they ought to exercise so as to edify, in the spirit of service which is that of their Master.¹

Splendor of Truth

Responsibility for the faith and the life of faith of the People of God is particularly incumbent upon the Church's Pastors. (*section 114*)

We have the duty, as bishops, to be vigilant that the word of God is faithfully taught. My Brothers in the Episcopate, it is part of our pastoral ministry to see to it that this moral teaching is faithfully handed down and to have recourse to appropriate measures to ensure that the faithful are guarded from every doctrine and theory contrary to it. In carrying out this task we are all assisted by theologians; even so, theological opinions constitute neither the rule nor the norm of our teaching. Its authority is derived, by the assistance of the Holy Spirit and in communion cum Petro et sub Petro, from our fidelity to the Catholic faith which comes from the Apostles. As bishops, we have the “grave obligation” to be personally vigilant that the “sound doctrine” (1 Tim 1:10) of faith and morals is taught in our dioceses. (*section 116*)



Vatican Council II

Although the bishops, taken individually, do not enjoy the privilege of infallibility, they do, however, proclaim infallibly the doctrine of Christ on the following conditions: namely, when, even though dispersed throughout the world but preserving for all that amongst themselves and with Peter's successor the bond of communion, in their authoritative teaching concerning matters of faith and morals, they are in agreement that a particular teaching is to be held definitively and absolutely. This is still more clearly the case when, assembled in an ecumenical council, they are, for the universal Church, teachers of and judges in matters of faith and morals, whose decisions must be adhered to with the loyal and obedient assent of faith. *The Church, 25*

Among the more important duties of bishops that of preaching the Gospel has pride of place. For the bishops are heralds of the faith, who draw new disciples to Christ; they are authentic teachers, that is, teachers endowed with the authority of Christ, who preach the faith to the people assigned to them, the faith which is destined to inform their thinking and direct their conduct; and under the light of the Holy Spirit they make that faith shine forth, drawing from the storehouse of revelation new things and old (cf. Mt. 13:52); they make it bear fruit and with watchfulness they ward off whatever errors threaten their flock (cf. 2 Tim. 4:1-4). *The Church, 25*

“This infallibility, however, with which the divine redeemer wished to endow his Church in defining doctrine pertaining to faith and morals, is co-extensive with the deposit of revelation, which must be religiously guarded and loyally and courageously expounded. The Roman Pontiff, head of the college of bishops, enjoys this infallibility in virtue of his office, when, as supreme pastor and teacher of all the faithful—who confirms his brethren in the faith (cf. Lk. 22:32)—he proclaims in an absolute decision a doctrine pertaining to faith or morals. *The Church, 25*

Q. 154. Who directs Christ's work in the Catholic Church?

The Pope and the bishops direct Christ's work in the Catholic Church, in every rite and diocese.

The Pope is chief representative of Christ in the Church; he is its principal symbol of unity. He enjoys the primacy of jurisdiction over the Church and is the head of the College of Bishops. He is the chief teacher and ruler over the Church.

For commentaries on each question with Cardinal Arinze, Sr. John Vianney and Fr. Straub (in Spanish), see Appendix E.

The bishops are visible signs of Christ and the symbols of unity in their respective dioceses. Each diocesan bishop, or ordinary, is the principal teacher, priest, and shepherd of the Church in his diocese. Collectively, all the bishops, with the Pope as their head, are the teachers of the faith for the whole Church. They are responsible for its well-being throughout the world.



#C15-50

Vatican Council II

This sacred synod, following in the steps of the First Vatican Council, teaches and declares with it that Jesus Christ, the eternal pastor, set up the holy Church by entrusting the apostles with their mission as he himself had been sent by the Father (cf. Jn. 20:21). He willed that their successors, the bishops namely, should be the shepherds in his Church until the end of the world. In order that the episcopate itself, however, might be one and undivided he put Peter at the head of the other apostles, and in him he set up a lasting and visible source and foundation of the unity both of faith and of communion. *The Church, 18*

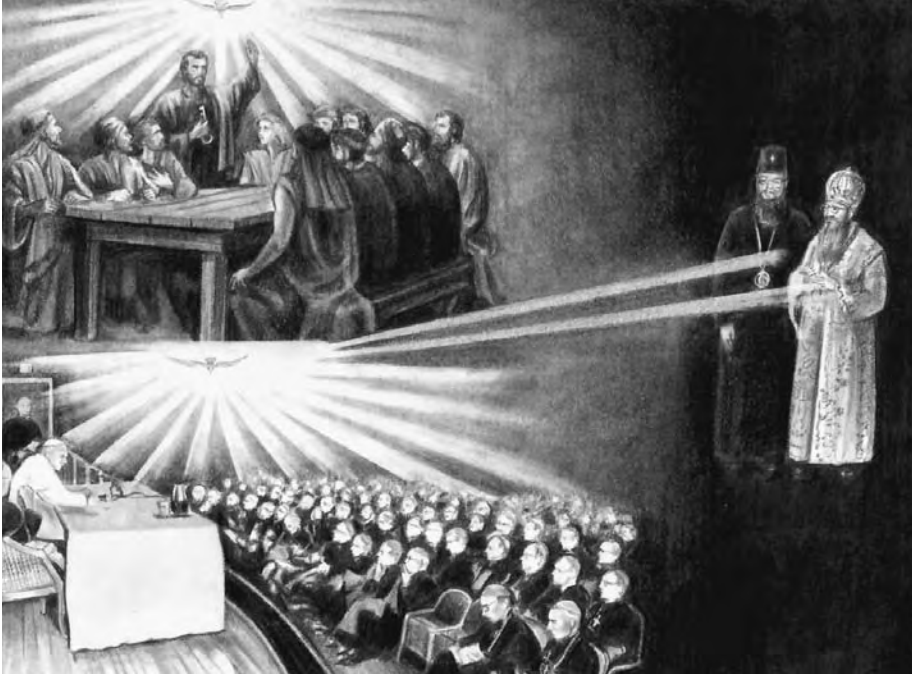
Just as, in accordance with the Lord's decree, St. Peter and the rest of the apostles constitute a unique apostolic college, so in like fashion the Roman Pontiff, Peter's successor, and the bishops, the successors of the apostles, are related with and united to one another. *The Church, 22*

The order of bishops is the successor to the college of the apostles in their role as teachers and pastors, and in it the apostolic college is perpetuated. Together with their head, the Supreme Pontiff, and never apart from him, they have supreme and full authority over the universal Church; but this power cannot be exercised without the agreement of the Roman Pontiff. *The Church, 22*

The supreme authority over the whole Church, which this college possesses, is exercised in a solemn way in an ecumenical council. *The Church, 22*

Doctrine • Moral • Worship Exercise (see Appendix B for answer key)

1. What does it mean to say that the Church and the Pope are infallible in their teachings? In what instances are the Church and the Pope infallible?
2. Do you strive to know and remain loyal to the teachings of the Church regarding moral issues? How can you keep informed of the Pope's stand on contemporary moral issues?
3. Allot 5-10 minutes a day to reflect on one of the Holy Father's encyclicals or apostolic letters (e.g., "Letter to Children," "Guardian of the Redeemer" or "Lay Members of Christ's Faithful").



Chapter Summary Prayer

Most Holy Trinity, by the power of the Eucharist, make Your Church firm in unity and love and grant strength and salvation to Your servant, our Holy Father, the Pope and Supreme Shepherd, together with the flock You have entrusted to his care. Give to Your shepherd a spirit of courage, right judgment, knowledge, and love. By governing with fidelity those entrusted to his care, may he, as successor to the Apostle Peter and the Vicar of Christ, guide us in building up Your Church, which is a sacrament of unity, love, and peace for all the world.

God our Father, You guide all things by Your Word; You govern all Christian people. In Your love, protect the Pope You have chosen for us. Under his leadership, may we deepen our faith and become better Christians through Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Family Wisdom Library: Chapter 44

See Appendix A for more references.

Q. 150. Does the Catholic Church have leaders?

*Dei Verbum (Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation), Vatican II, sect. 7, 8, 10;
Lumen Gentium (Dogmatic Constitution on the Church), Vatican II, sect. 8, 12, 13, 18, 19;
On the Holy Spirit in the Life of the Church and the World, John Paul II, sect. 25;
Splendor of Truth, John Paul II, sect. 2, 115.*

Q. 151. Who is the Pope?

*Dei Verbum (Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation), Vatican II, sect. 7, 8, 10;
Lumen Gentium (Dogmatic Constitution on the Church), Vatican II, sect. 8, 12, 18-27;
The Relationship Between Faith and Reason, John Paul II, sect. 52-62.*

Q. 152. Who are the bishops of the Church?

Catechesis in Our Time, John Paul II, sect. 10-12;

Dei Verbum (Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation), *Vatican II*, sect. 7, 8, 10;

Lumen Gentium (Dogmatic Constitution on the Church), *Vatican II*, sect. 8, 12, 18-27;

On the Holy Spirit in the Life of the Church and the World, John Paul II, sect. 25;

The Relationship Between Faith and Reason, John Paul II, sect. 52-62;

Splendor of Truth, John Paul II, sect. 3, 115.

Q. 153. What are the chief responsibilities of the Pope and bishops of the Catholic Church?

Catechesis in Our Time, John Paul II, sect. 10-11;

Dei Verbum (Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation), *Vatican II*, sect. 7, 8, 10;

Lumen Gentium (Dogmatic Constitution on the Church), *Vatican II*, sect. 8, 12, 13, 18-27;

On the Holy Spirit in the Life of the Church and the World, John Paul II, sect. 25;

On the Hundredth Anniversary of Rerum Novarum, John Paul II, sect. 54-55;

On Social Concern, John Paul II, sect. 1, 8-9, 41;

The Relationship Between Faith and Reason, John Paul II, sect. 52-62;

Splendor of Truth, John Paul II, sect. 3.

Q. 154. Who directs Christ's work in the Catholic Church?

Catechesis in Our Time, John Paul II, sect. 11-12;

Dei Verbum (Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation), *Vatican II*, sect. 7, 8, 10;

Lay Members of Christ's Faithful People, John Paul II, sect. 25-27;

Lumen Gentium (Dogmatic Constitution on the Church), *Vatican II*, sect. 7, 8, 12, 13, 18-28;

On the Holy Spirit in the Life of the Church and the World, John Paul II, sect. 25;

Splendor of Truth, John Paul II, sect. 3, 114.

**Thought Provokers**

Please see Appendix C for the answers.

- Q. 150: Members of the Catholic Church belong also to civil or temporal societies. Doesn't this fact tend to cause divided and conflicting loyalties?
- Q. 151: It is sometimes said that the Pope teaches without error in matters pertaining to faith and morals only when he exercises his extraordinary or *ex cathedra* teaching authority or magisterium. Is this correct?
- Q. 152: The Church teaches that Catholic bishops enjoy the fullness of the sacrament of Holy Orders. What does this mean?
- Q. 153: The Pope, as the Successor of St. Peter and the Vicar of Christ, enjoys full, supreme, and universal power over the entire Church. Among other things, this means that the Pope may govern the Church without the consent of the other bishops. Do the other bishops, in any sense, as successors of the Apostles, share with the Pope in the government of the whole Church?
- Q. 154: Who directs all work in the cause of Christ in the Catholic home?