

ALIVE IN CHRIST

GRADE 3

The Church

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Our Sunday Visitor

The Church



Our Catholic Tradition

- The Holy Spirit is the soul of the Mystical Body of Christ, the Church, and unites us. (CCC, 809)
- The Church is one and holy because she is united in the Trinity and to Christ. (CCC, 813–822)
- The Church is catholic, or universal, because she has all the truths and means of salvation. (CCC, 823–829)
- The Church is apostolic—founded by Jesus on Peter and the Apostles. The Pope and bishops lead the Church. (CCC, 857–865)

How does the power of the Holy Spirit work in the Church through her bishops and all Catholics?

Saint Peter's Basilica
Vatican City in
Rome, Italy



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Church Leaders

Let Us Pray

Leader: Caring God, help us follow your will for our lives.

“With your counsel you guide me,
and at the end receive me with honor.”

Psalm 73:24

All: Jesus, you give us leaders to help us stay close to you. We give thanks for the priests and deacons who serve you by serving our Church. Amen.

God's Word

Jesus sent out the Twelve and told them to tell others, “The kingdom of heaven is at hand.” He told them that they didn’t need to take any money, or a sack to carry their things. He told them not to take extra clothes or shoes. They would depend on others for what they needed. **Based on Matthew 10:5–10**

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What Do You Wonder?

- How do you think the Apostles felt when Jesus said they had to depend on others?
- Why do pastors need the help of others?

The First Leader

What special job did Jesus choose Peter for?

Here is a story about Saint Peter, the first leader of the Catholic Church.

Catholic Faith Words

Pope the successor of Peter, the bishop of Rome, and the head of the entire Catholic Church

God's Word

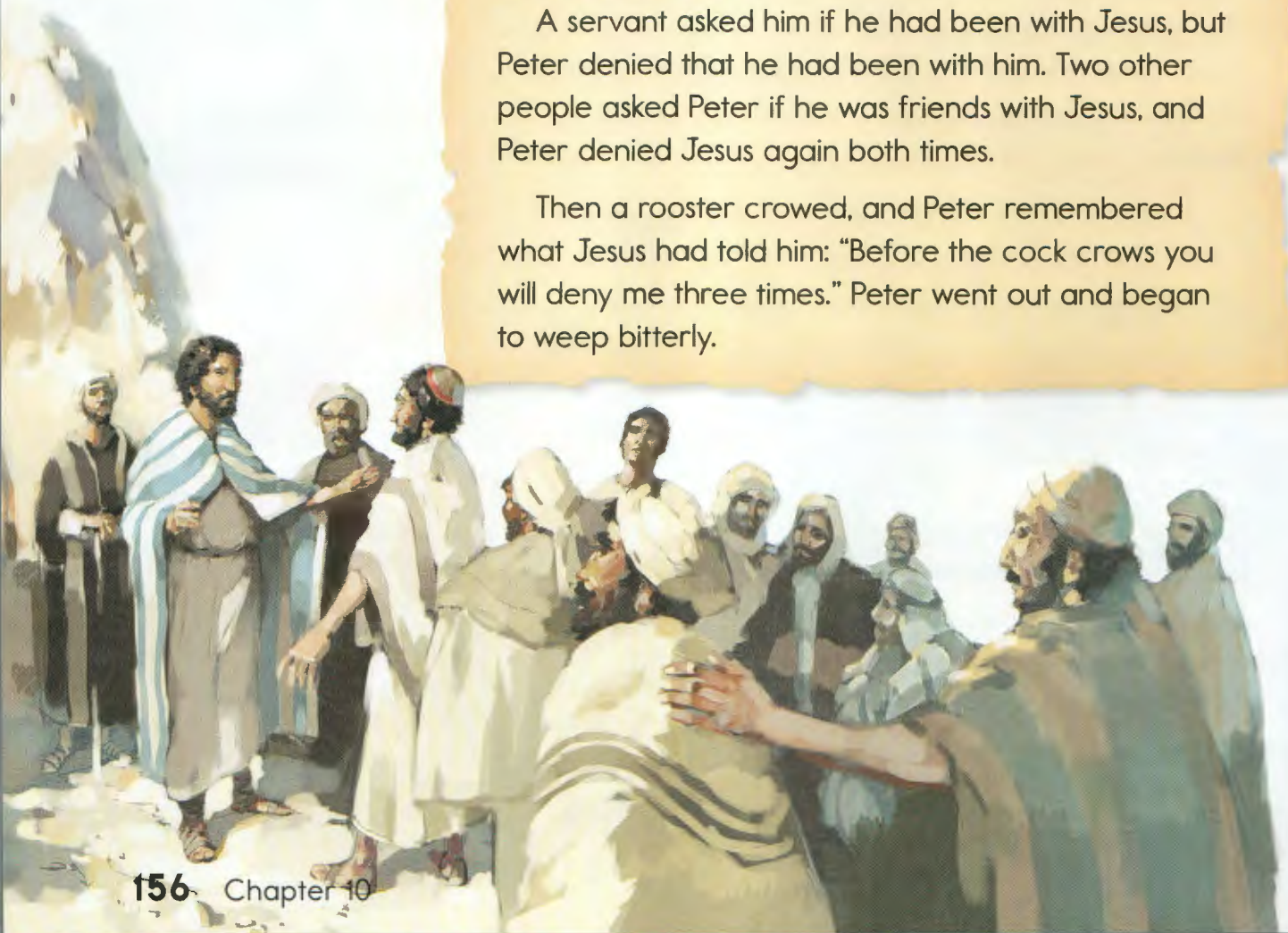
Peter's Belief

Jesus asked his disciples, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon answered him, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Then Jesus blessed Simon and told him that he could not know that from being human. Only his Father could make that known. "And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church."

Peter Denies Jesus

A servant asked him if he had been with Jesus, but Peter denied that he had been with him. Two other people asked Peter if he was friends with Jesus, and Peter denied Jesus again both times.

Then a rooster crowed, and Peter remembered what Jesus had told him: "Before the cock crows you will deny me three times." Peter went out and began to weep bitterly.



Jesus and Peter

After his Resurrection, Jesus showed himself to his followers. Jesus asked Peter if he loved him. Peter responded yes, I love you. Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." Jesus asked Peter again, "Do you love me?" Peter answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Tend my sheep" and asked a third time, "Do you love me?" Peter said, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." [Jesus] said to him, "Feed my sheep." **Based on Matthew 16:15-19, 26:69-75, John 21:15-17**



Jesus chose Peter to be the first leader of the Apostles and the head of the Church. The person in this position is now called the **Pope**. They are the successor of Peter. The Holy Spirit guides the Pope to help him lead the Church and care for all of God's People.

Share Your Faith

Think Have you ever been asked to be a leader?

Share Talk about your experience in leading a group. Was leading easy or difficult?

The Pope and bishops carry on the work of the Apostles, preaching the Good News. They lead, guide, and care for God's People.



Catholic Faith Words

Apostolic Succession the term used to describe how the authority and power to lead and teach the Church is passed down from the Apostles to their successors, the bishops

bishop an ordained man who works together with other bishops and the Pope in teaching, leading, and making the Church holy. The bishops are the successors of the Apostles.

Chosen to Lead

How do the Pope and bishops lead the Church?

The Apostles were the twelve men chosen by Jesus to be the first leaders of the Church, and Peter was their leader. The Apostles' teaching and authority have been handed down to the bishops, who are the leaders of the Church today. They are the people who now take the place of the Apostles on Earth. This is called **Apostolic Succession**.

The Pope is also the Bishop of Rome. The word **bishop** means "overseer." A bishop is an ordained man who helps to lead, teach, and serve a diocese. Bishops are the successors of the Apostles. We use the word **Magisterium** to talk about the teaching office of the Church, which is all of the bishops in union with the Pope.

Leaders of the Parish

Dioceses are made up of many parishes. Each parish has leaders, too. The pastor is a priest who has been given the authority to lead a parish community. He, along with other priests, celebrates the Sacraments and works with others to serve the people of a parish. Deacons celebrate some of the Sacraments and do works of charity.

Church Members Serve

There are other people in a parish who are called to serve and lead. These men and women are not ordained, but they help with many parish ministries. Your catechist (religious education teacher) is one of these people. Other examples include liturgical ministers, parish committee members, and directors of religious education and youth ministry.

➔ **What are some ways that the leaders of your parish help you?**

Catholic Faith Words

Magisterium the teaching office of the Church, which is all of the bishops in union with the Pope



Underline what a parish pastor does.

Connect Your Faith

Serving Others On the lines below, write one way that each of the Church members can serve others.

1. Pastor: _____

2. Catechist: _____

3. You: _____





Write down one interesting thing that the Pope does for the Church.

Our Catholic Life

What is the Pope's job?

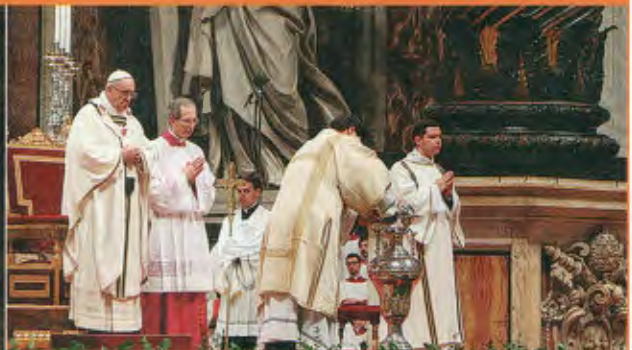
The Pope has a special job in the Church. He is guided by the Holy Spirit to lead the Church. The more you learn about the Pope, the better you will understand the Church and your role in her mission.

The Pope



The Pope teaches.

The Pope is the highest teacher and guide in the Church. The Church learns about important matters of faith from what the Pope says and what he writes.



The Pope leads.

Together with the bishops, the Pope makes decisions about what Catholics should do to be better followers of Jesus.



The Pope travels.

The Pope goes all over the world to meet Catholics and people of other faiths. He helps bring peace and understanding.



The Pope cares for the whole world.

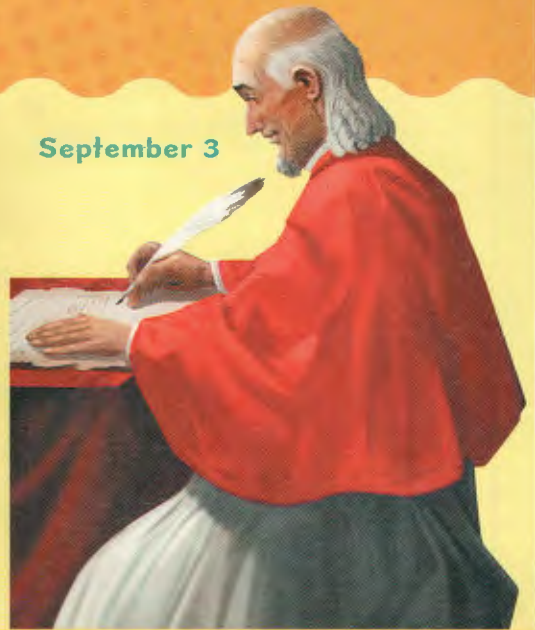
He celebrates Mass and meets with Catholics as well as with world leaders.

People of Faith

Saint Gregory the Great, c. 540–604

Saint Gregory didn't want to be the Pope, but was elected Pope anyway. The Pope has a special job. He is guided by the Holy Spirit to lead the Church. Gregory was sad to give up his life as a monk, but he knew he had to do what God wanted. After he was Pope, he trained missionaries to preach the Gospel. Gregory thought beautiful music helped us pray better. Gregorian chant, a special kind of music, is named for him.

September 3



Discuss: How do you feel when you are asked to do something you don't want to do?



Learn more about Saint Gregory the Great at aliveinchrist.osv.com

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Live Your Faith

My Church Community Fill in the blanks to show how you belong to the community of the Catholic Church.



My name is _____.

I belong to a parish in the (Arch)diocese of _____.

Our pastor is _____. Our (arch)bishop is _____.
Pope _____

and the bishops lead the Catholic Church.

Research Do some research with a family member to find out one thing that is unique about your parish or diocese.

 Let Us Pray

Prayer of the Faithful

Gather and begin with the Sign of the Cross.

Leader: We gather today to pray for our leaders and for the needs of the Church.

Reader 1: For the Pope, the bishops, the priests, and other Church leaders, that they may act with wisdom and encourage hope, we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 2: For our teachers and catechists, that they may help us understand your plan for us, we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 3: For all members of the Church, that we may use our gifts to serve, we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Let us pray.

Bow your heads as the leader prays.

All: Amen.



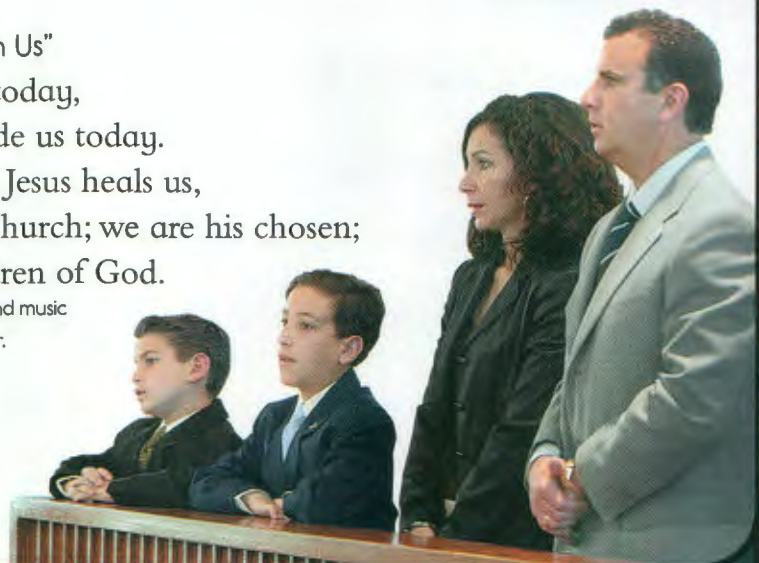
Sing "Jesus Is with Us"
Jesus is with us today,
beside us to guide us today.
Jesus teaches us, Jesus heals us,
for we are his Church; we are his chosen;
we are the children of God.

Based on Psalm 122. Text and music

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FAMILY+FAITH

LIVING AND LEARNING TOGETHER

YOUR CHILD LEARNED >>>

This chapter explains how the Pope, bishops, and pastors lead and guide the Church and describes the Pope and bishops as successors of the Apostles.

God's Word



Read **Matthew 10:5–10** and learn how Jesus sent the Apostles to announce the Good News.

Catholics Believe

- The bishops are the successors of the Apostles who teach, lead, and make the Church holy.
- The Pope is the successor of Peter, the bishop of Rome, and the head of the entire Church.

To learn more, go to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #816–939 at usccb.org.

People of Faith

This week, your child met Saint Gregory the Great, one of our past Popes. The Gregorian chant is named after him.

CHILDREN AT THIS AGE >>>

How They Understand Leaders in the Church The adults in the parish that interact most with children, such as the catechists and sometimes the parish priests, are usually the Church leaders of whom children are most aware. They do not yet have much exposure to the Pope or even the local bishop. However, learning more about the larger Church and her leaders can help your child feel more connected to the worldwide community of faith.



CONSIDER THIS >>>

How difficult is it to keep your whole family on the same page?

There are so many competing values and obligations in our lives. It may tend to pull the family in many directions. That is why it is important that each member of the family knows that faith is the priority in your family life. "When a family becomes a school of virtue and a community of love, it is an image of the loving communion of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It is then an icon of the Trinity" (*USCCA*, p. 377).

LET'S TALK >>>

- Ask your child to name some of the responsibilities of a bishop.
- Take turns sharing what you think would be the most interesting thing about being the Pope.

LET'S PRAY >>>



Saint Gregory, pray for us that we may use our talents to serve others. Amen.



For a multimedia glossary of Catholic Faith Words, Sunday readings, seasonal and Saint resources, and chapter activities go to aliveinchrist.osv.com.

Chapter 10 Review

A Work with Words Complete each sentence with the correct word or words from the Word Bank.

1. Many parishes make up a _____.
2. _____ Succession describes how the authority to lead and teach the Church was given to the Apostles and passed down to the bishops.
3. The _____ guides the Pope to lead the Church.
4. The _____ is the teaching office of the Church—all of the bishops in union with the Pope.
5. A _____ is an ordained man who teaches and leads members of the Church, making her holy.

Word Bank

Holy Spirit

Apostolic

diocese

bishop

Magisterium

B Check Understanding Match each description in Column A with the correct term in Column B.

Column A

6. head of the entire Catholic Church
7. chose the Apostles to lead the Church
8. was the leader of the Apostles and first head of the Church
9. leads a diocese
10. leads a parish

Column B

- Jesus
- Pope
- bishop
- Peter
- pastor

