

Jesus Establishes His Church

Unit 5
Chapter
17

Background: The Pope

The word *pope* comes from the Latin word *papa*, meaning "father." That is who the pope is to the Roman Catholic Church. He is a loving father who, with the help of the Holy Spirit, provides spiritual direction and guidance for the Catholic Church around the world.

In the New Testament we learn that Jesus of Nazareth entrusted the Apostle Peter with a special authority to guide the early Church (see Matthew 16:18). Peter's successors, the bishops of Rome, have held the title of *pope* and have carried on Peter's ministry of guiding the Church and proclaiming the Gospel from the days of the Apostles down to the present day.

Getting Ready

1. Read the Take Home pages 193 and 194 of your child's book. Gather the family at a convenient time early in the week to participate in the Activity on page 193.
2. With your child, read about Saint Peter, the Saint of the Week. Learn more about him at SaintsResource.com.
3. Read aloud and discuss The Apostle Peter at the top of page 194. Also read aloud Matthew 16:13-20.
4. Read Our Catholic Tradition. Then talk with your family about the Vatican. Ask family members to imagine themselves there. What would they want to see? What would interest them the most? Search the Internet for more information on the Vatican City (vaticanstate.va), the Vatican Museum (museivaticani.va), and the Vatican Library (vatlib.it).



Focus

There is an unbroken line of succession from Saint Peter and the other Apostles to the pope and bishops today.

The Church Teaches

The whole Church is united with the offering and intercession of Christ. Since he has the ministry of Peter in the Church, the Pope is associated with every celebration of the Eucharist, wherein he is named as the sign and servant of the unity of the universal Church.

Catechism of the Catholic Church 1369

Prayer

God our Father, guide and protect the Holy Father and all the bishops of our Church. Fill them with wisdom and courage. Help them follow the examples of Saint Peter and the Apostles. Amen.

Exploring the Chapter

Share

1. Light the candle. Read aloud the Scripture verse at the top of page 195. Discuss its meaning.
2. Read aloud the Share section on page 195. Talk together about people you know who are good leaders and the qualities they have that make them good leaders.
3. Invite your child to complete the Activity and discuss his or her responses.

Hear and Believe

4. Look at and discuss the illustration of Jesus and Peter on page 196.
5. Read aloud Jesus Chooses Peter. Invite your child to name the qualities that made Peter a good leader. (*Peter loved Jesus. He understood that Jesus was the Messiah. Peter was strong and steady.*)
6. Read aloud The Leaders of the Catholic Church at the top of page 197. Review the Faith Words **pope** and **bishops**. Talk about how you see the pope and bishops of the Church continuing the work of Saint Peter and the Apostles today.
7. Read aloud and discuss Our Church Teaches and the We Believe statement. Review the Faith Word *apostolic*.

Respond

8. Look at the illustrations of Blessed Pius IX and Pope Saint John XXIII on page 198. Read aloud Blessed Pius IX and Pope Saint John XXIII. Review the meaning of the term *ecumenical council* and discuss the reasons a pope might have for calling an ecumenical council. (*A gathering of the pope and all the bishops of the Church; to explain*

the faith, interpret Scripture, or settle disputes regarding faith and morals.) Also review the meaning of the term Magisterium. (The teaching authority of the Church)

9. Before inviting your child to complete the activity on page 199, talk about the gifts and talents he or she has that can be used for the good of the Church. Give your child time to complete his or her drawing, and discuss his or her work.
10. Pray together A Prayer for the Leaders of Our Church on page 200. Alternate with your child reading the parts of the Leader and Readers. Say together the responses marked All. You may wish to conclude by singing the Unit Song on page 192.
11. Have your child complete the Chapter Review. See page 48 of this guide for the answer key.
12. Work with your child to complete Faith in Action on page 202. It highlights the Catholic Social Teaching of **Option for the Poor and Vulnerable**.

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We want to learn more about . . .