

TEACHER'S NOTES

6 year olds	OUR HEAVENLY FATHER
Chapter 20	JESUS BEGINS THE CHURCH
Lesson 4	THE CHURCH TODAY

AIMS

1. Children will learn about the present leadership of the Church.
2. They will be able to identify the current Pope, their local bishop, and parish priest.
3. They will learn that the Pope lives in the Vatican.

BEGIN

Review the Apostolic Succession charts in their packs with the children. Discuss this with the children and make sure they understand the principles involved.

Talk about the role of the Pope, bishops and priests, and their differences and similarities. See "The Hierarchy of the Church" in the children's packs.

STEP 1

Explain that when St Peter died another man was chosen to take his place. As each man died another was chosen to replace him so that his authority passed from one man to the next. These men are called popes. Refer the children to the word in their packs. Explain that today our Pope is _____, and show them the picture in their packs. Explain that while the Pope is the visible head of the Church on earth, Christ remains the true head. Explain that there can only ever be one Pope. Show the children a picture of the Vatican and explain that this is where the Pope lives.

STEP 2

Now refer to the section headed "Bishop" in their packs. Explain that the rest of the apostle (not only Peter) had men take their place once they died. These men are called bishops. Explain that there are thousands of bishops in the world and that they care for geographical regions. Tell the students the name of their diocese and the name of their bishop.

STEP 3

Explain that the bishop has many Catholics to care for, so he has priests to help him. Many of these priests have a church and lots of people to care for. Refer the children to the page entitled "Priests" in their packs. Priests have to obey their bishops and he serves the people as the bishop's helper. Priests give up much to serve us, such as a wife and children, so we should always love them and treat them with respect, especially good priests.

REINFORCE

1. Assign the answering the questions in the children's pack.
2. Play a memory game. Place the pictures of the Pope, bishop and priests face down on the desk. Let the children choose a picture and then tell you about the person.
3. Have the children make a card to give to their priest to celebrate his ordination..

CONCLUDE

1. Pray for the Pope.
2. Teach the children to sing an appropriate hymn such as “The Church's One Foundation,” Adoremus Hymnal, #560

PREVIEW

In the next lesson we will take a quiz to review what we have recently learned.