

Pope And Bishops

Some time after Pentecost, Peter went to Antioch, a great city to the north of Jerusalem. He was Bishop of Antioch for a few years. Then he went to Rome, the centre of the Empire, and was Bishop of Rome.

When the Emperor Nero began persecuting Christians in 64 AD, Peter and Paul were both killed. Paul was beheaded, while Peter, it is said, was crucified upside down.

The Church in Rome became the most important Church for other Christians. It was in Rome where the two greatest leaders of the early Church, Peter and Paul, were martyred.

Cities where Simon Peter worked as an apostle

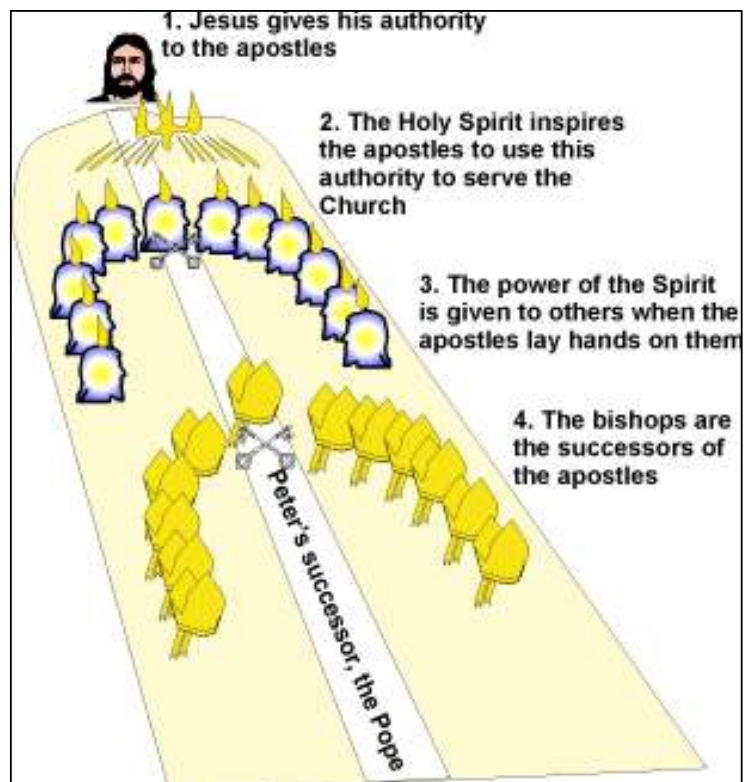


Pope

Many others came after Peter as Bishop of Rome. Later, the Bishop of Rome was often called Pope, a word meaning 'father'. Catholics believe him to be Peter's successor. This means that he has the same task of leading the whole Church. There have been over two hundred and sixty popes from Peter to the present day.

Bishops

Apostles passed on the authority Jesus gave them. They laid hands on other men and called down the Holy Spirit on them. These men were called bishops and looked after the Church in a certain place. These bishops laid hands on other men to make new bishops. That is why bishops are successors of the apostles. They have received the same Spirit and duties of the apostles. There are many bishops throughout the world today. Bishops look after the Church in a certain place called a diocese.



PERSECUTE - to hurt and harr
MARTYR - witness for Christ (often
by being killed for Christian belief)
POPE - a word meaning 'father' (papa),
now used for the Bishop of Rome

SUCCESSOR - someone who comes after a
person and takes on the same task
DIOCESE - the Church in a certain area
having a Bishop as a shepherd and guide

Some Titles Of The Pope

Pope

'Pope' means father. This shows that the Pope must be like a loving father to the God's People on earth.

Holy Father

Again, this title shows how the Pope must be like a loving father.

Bishop of Rome

The Pope is the Bishop of Rome. Peter was Bishop of Rome. The Pope is a successor of one apostle, Peter. Other bishops are successors of the apostles as a group.

Vicar of Christ

A 'vicar' acts in the place of someone. The Pope is the Vicar of Christ because he acts in Christ's place as Head of the Church. This shows that the Pope's authority comes from Jesus Christ. The Pope has no authority of his own.

Servant of the Servants of God

Those who work in the Church, especially bishops and priests, are servants of God. The Pope is even more of a servant. Since he has to serve the whole Church, he is the servant of the servants of God.

To do

- 1 The big block of words has been broken into four smaller blocks.

Write down what was written on the big block.

or of Peter. Like Peter, of Rome. He has the whole Church. The word here have been over 260 up to the present day.

Bishops are successors means they have received 12 apostles called down hands on suitable men. job of being leaders like were called bishops. Th in a certain area called a

The Pope is the successor the Pope is the Bishop of the same job of leading the 'pope' means 'father'. The popes from Simon Peter

of the 12 apostles. This ed the same Spirit. The the Spirit by laying on These men had then the the apostles. These men ey look after the Church diocese.

- 2 When Pope Leo XIII died in 1903, the Times Newspaper in England wrote:
The great keys have now been surrendered, and their weight, carried for so many years with courage, has been lifted at last.

- a) What did the newspaper mean by the 'great keys'?
- b) What did the newspaper mean by the 'weight' of these keys?

Research

- 3 If a bishop has visited your school or parish, you might see him wearing a *mitre* and carrying a *crozier*.

Find out what they symbolise. Write up your findings.

- 4 In Rome there is a small State called the Vatican. The pope is based there.

Below is the Vatican's crest.

Find out what you can about the symbols in the crest. Write up your findings.

