

The Church Has Leaders

Objective: The students will be able to identify the names of Church leaders who look to Jesus as the perfect example of a leader.

For the Catechist

Because children learn by experience, their experiences with the Church are primarily with their own parish. This is where they pray and worship. Also, they are beginning to realize that there are other people in many other churches who worship as they do. All these people are united because they have Christ as their leader. The children also recognize that the Church has other leaders who follow Jesus Christ. They are beginning to recognize the hierarchy of the church.

Children in Grade 3 are most familiar with their parish priest, who leads in worship, preaches, and administers the Mysteries. This lesson seeks to introduce them to the principal figures in the wider Church. Before this lesson the catechist should obtain accurate information about and, if possible, pictures of your bishop and the other important figures in your particular Church (Metropolitan, Patriarch, etc.). Your diocesan publication is a good source for pictures of the Church's hierarchs.

Lesson Plan Overview

Opening: "O Heavenly King"

Introduction: Discussion about the need for leaders. **Need:** a ball

Read Text Aloud: Have students volunteer to read the text. Use questions in the teacher manual to discuss the lesson with the students.

Activity Tracks:

Choose a basic, group, or craft activity to reinforce the lesson (detailed on the pages that follow).

- *Basic:* Who Am I?
- *Group:* "Our Church Leaders" Poster
- *Craft:* "O Heavenly King" Prayer Page

Closing: "O Heavenly King"

[For next week's lesson, arrange to have the church open and lit for the church tour that is part of the "Introduction." For next week's craft have the students bring in an empty shoe box.]

Icon Packets:

Come Bless the Lord: Three Holy Hierarchs

Teaching Pics:

Holy Orders (S17, S18, S19)

Background Reading

(Direct quotations from the sources noted)

Holy Orders

"Since its beginning, the Church has recognized these gifts of the Spirit within it and has confirmed the Spirit's work by setting apart some people for the permanent exercise of ministries within the community. Of these the ranks of bishop, priest and deacon fall into the category of holy orders, recognized as a sacramental state within the Church" (*DC 96*).

Bishops in the Christian Community

"The Second Vatican Council gave much importance to the proclamation and transmission of the Gospel in the episcopal ministry. 'Among the principal duties of Bishops, that of preaching the Gospel excels.' In carrying out this task, Bishops are above all, 'heralds of the faith,' seeking new disciples for Jesus Christ, and 'authentic teachers,' transmitting the faith to be professed and lived to those entrusted to their care. Missionary proclamation and catechesis are two closely united aspects of the prophetic ministry of Bishops. To perform this duty Bishops receive 'the charism of truth.' The Bishops are 'beyond all others the ones primarily responsible for catechesis and catechists par excellence.' In the Church's history the preponderant role of great and saintly Bishops is evident. Their writings and initiative mark the richest period of the catechumenate. They regarded catechesis as one of the most fundamental tasks of their ministry" (*GDC 209*).

Priests in the Christian Community

"The function proper to the presbyterate in the catechetical task arises from the sacrament of Holy Orders which they have received. 'Through that sacrament priests, by the anointing of the Holy Spirit, are signed with a special character and so are configured to Christ the priest, in such a way that they are able to act in the person of Christ the head.' In virtue of this ontological configuration to Christ, the ministry of the priest is a service which forms the Christian community and coordinates and strengthens other charisms and services. In catechesis the sacrament of Holy Orders constitutes priests as 'educators of the faith.' They work, therefore, to see that the faithful are properly formed and reach true Christian maturity. Conscious, on the other hand, that their 'ministerial Priesthood' is at the service of 'the common Priesthood of the faithful,' priests foster the vocation and work of catechists and assist them in carrying out a function which springs from Baptism and is exercised in virtue of a mission entrusted to them by the Church. Thus priests put into effect the request which the Second Vatican Council made of them: 'to recognize and promote the dignity of the laity and their specific role in the Church's mission'" (*GDC 210-211*).

The Lesson Plan

Opening

Today we are going to start learning another prayer for this year. The prayer is "O Heavenly King." [Use your jurisdiction's prayer page at the end of this lesson.] Let's start with the sign of the cross and pray: "O Heavenly King..."

Introduction

Let's start class today with a game. I brought a ball for the game. Okay, let's start. [Toss the ball. By now the children will ask about the game.] I don't know what we should play. Do you have ideas? How do you play that game? [Let someone tell the rules for any game. If the game is not too rowdy, play for a few minutes.] Okay, let's sit down.

Did we know what to do with the ball at first? Why not? (No one told us.) Why do we need a leader? (It is easier because we know what is expected. We have someone to guide us.) When we do not have a leader, we very easily get mixed up. In this case we didn't know what to do with the ball.

The followers of Jesus felt the same way. They liked having Jesus as their leader. Jesus was leading them and teaching them about God. Does anyone remember the name given to the first followers of Jesus? (Disciples) After Jesus died and rose from the dead, the disciples continued to follow His teachings. These people joined together to form the Church. Did they invite other people to join them? (Yes) Last week we learned the name of the followers of Jesus Christ who believe in Him and have been baptized. What is the name? (Christians).

We are Christians because we have been baptized and we follow Jesus. Today we are going to learn how our Church and our Church leaders follow Jesus.

Let's turn to our lesson to learn about our Church leaders.

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Our Church Has Leaders



All Christians follow Jesus Christ, the leader of the Church. He leads us by showing us how to live united to God forever. Jesus Christ is the perfect example of a leader.

Leaders help people work together. The leaders of our Church help us work together to stay united to God. Our Church leaders look to Jesus Christ to learn how to lead people to God.

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Reading of Text

As the children read aloud, help them interact with the text using the comments or questions below which are keyed to the text phrases (in bold type).

Jesus Christ is the perfect example of a leader.

Where is Jesus leading us? (Jesus is leading us to God.) That is why we follow Jesus. We see many leaders in the picture. They want us to grow closer to God.

... He sacrificed Himself to gain eternal life for us.

What are some ways Jesus taught us to be united with God? (He taught us to pray, take care of each other, and love each other.)

Our Church leaders try to follow the perfect example of Jesus.

What do our Church leaders try to do? (Follow the perfect example of Jesus) Who is the priest in our church? Who is the deacon in our church? (Ask this if you have a deacon.) What are some ways they help us stay united to God? (Lead us in worship, preach and administer the Mysteries)

The Bishop may even visit our class to see how well we are doing.

[If your church has been visited recently by the Bishop, discuss the visit with the children.]

Jesus Christ led people by telling them what to do to be united to God forever. He taught people how to pray. He taught people how to take care of each other. He taught people how to love each other. Jesus Christ showed us how important we are to Him. Jesus was willing to suffer and die for us to be united to God. Jesus is the perfect leader because He sacrificed Himself to gain eternal life for us.

Our Church leaders try to follow the perfect example of Jesus. They want to lead us to God.

Our priest is the church leader we see most often. He is the one who leads us in worshiping God. He is the one who reminds us to follow the teachings of the Church. Our priest is the one who administers the Mysteries that help us become one with Jesus Christ.



Some churches have a deacon. A deacon is ordained to serve the needs of the community. We see the deacon often because he works together with the priest.

The Bishop is the leader of the churches in a certain area. All these churches together are called an Eparchy. The Bishop goes from church to church in the Eparchy to remind us of the Good News of Jesus. He makes sure we remember what God has done for us. He sees that we are practicing what Jesus taught us.

It is always a special time when the Bishop comes to our church. There are different prayers and hymns at the Liturgy. There may be a dinner or special celebration. The Bishop may even visit our class to see how well we are doing.

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... when people from all the eparchies gather together.

Who is our Bishop? What is the name of the chief bishop of an area? (Archbishop or Metropolitan)

... the bishops help us to follow Jesus.

What is the name of the Pope?

[If possible, have a picture of the church leaders. Pictures can be found in religious newspapers, magazine, and newsletters.]

The leaders of the Church lead us to Jesus. They help us learn about the traditions of our Church. We have wonderful leaders who love us. They show us the way to Jesus. Would any of you want to become a leader in our Church? Would any of you boys want to become a priest? What a wonderful way to live your life—leading people to Jesus

The chief bishop in an area may be called an Archbishop or Metropolitan. He leads the members of all the eparchies in his care. We may see him at a pilgrimage or convention when people from all the eparchies gather together.

The chief Metropolitan in the Church may be called a Patriarch, a word that means "head of the bishops." For example, Saint John Chrysostom was Patriarch of Constantinople, the largest city of the Byzantine Empire. The patriarch of the West is the Pope of Rome, the chief Bishop in all the Catholic Churches.

All the bishops lead the Church like the apostles led the first Christians. This is why we call them "the successors of the apostles." With the help of the priests and deacons, the bishops help us to follow Jesus.

The leaders of our Church look to Jesus.
Jesus is the perfect example of a leader.

Words to Remember:

Deacon: One who is ordained to serve the needs of the community.

Priest: One who is ordained to serve our church by preaching, leading us in worship, and administering the Sacred Mysteries.

Bishop: One who is ordained to lead the people in a group of parishes. This group is called an eparchy.

Patriarch, Metropolitan, Archbishop: A senior Bishop who is the leader of the people from many eparchies formed by the local churches.

Pope of Rome: Patriarch of the West and Chief Bishop in the Catholic Churches.

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Activity Tracks

Basic: Who Am I?

[This worksheet is in the student text.]

Today we learned about many leaders of the Church. Did you know we had so many leaders? Let's see how many you remember.

[Ask the students to name them. If possible, hold up the picture and ask them for the name.]

Now we are going to play a guessing game. Read the description of the church leader, and fill in the name of that leader. You may look in the "Words to Remember" box on the previous page for the correct spelling of the name.

Who Am I?

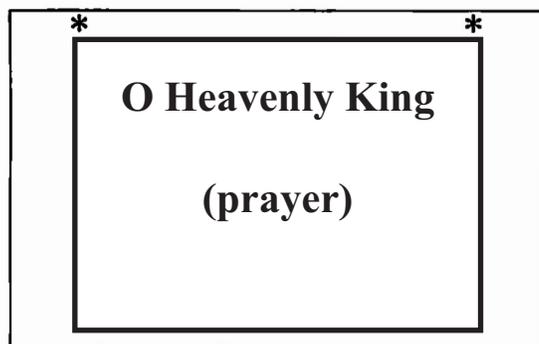
Complete the sentences with the title of the Church leader. Use the words from the "Words to Remember" box on the previous page.

- I am the Patriarch of the West and Chief Bishop in the Catholic Churches.
I am the Pope of Rome.
- I have been ordained to serve our church by preaching, leading us in worship, and administering the Sacred Mysteries.
I am the Priest.
- I have been ordained to serve the needs of the community.
I work with the priest.
I am the Deacon.
- I am the leader of an eparchy, a group of parishes.
I am a Bishop.
- I am a senior Bishop, the leader of the people from many eparchies.
I am the Patriarch or Metropolitan
or Archbishop.

Group: "Our Church Leaders" Poster

Materials: Poster board, "Church Leaders" worksheet, glue, and markers

We learned about many Church leaders today. Each Church leader wears a special vestment. Today we are going to make a poster that illustrates the vestments of a deacon, a priest, and a bishop. [Have the students color the vestments if there is time.] At the top of the poster let's write "Our Church Leaders." [If you have a picture of your deacon, priest, and bishop, add the pictures to the poster.]



Craft: "O Heavenly King" Prayer Page

Materials: Prayer worksheet, heavier white paper or construction paper (1/2 sheet per student), hole punch, markers, stickers or stars, scissors, and glue

[Have sample ready to show children.]

Today we are going to make another page for our prayer book. What prayer do we have in our books already? ("O Only Begotten Son")

Today we are going to add the prayer page we used at the beginning of class to our prayer book. What was the name of the prayer? ("O Heavenly King") Paste the prayer on a half sheet of construction paper or the heavier white paper. You can draw pictures around the prayer, or you can add the stars or stickers I have here. Punch two holes to match the ones on the prayer cover. Untie the yarn on our prayer book cover and add this new page. Now pull the yarn through the holes and tie.

Closing

*Let's start with the sign of the cross and pray:
"O Heavenly King..."*

[For next week's lesson, arrange to have the church open and lit for the church tour that is part of the "Introduction." For next week's craft have the students bring in an empty shoe box.]

O Heavenly King

O heavenly King, Consoler, Spirit of truth, present in all places and filling all things: the Treasury of blessings and the Giver of life! Come, O Good One, and dwell in us. Cleanse us of all stain and save our souls.

Melkite
Greek
Catholic
Church

O Heavenly King

O heavenly King, Consoler, Spirit of truth, who art in all places and fillest all things: Treasury of goodness and Giver of life! Come, and take up Thine abode among us and cleanse us of every stain and save our souls,
O Good One

Romanian
Greek
Catholic
Diocese of
Canton

O Heavenly King

O heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of truth, You are everywhere present and fill all things: Treasury of blessings and Giver of life! Come and dwell within us. Cleanse us of all stain and save our souls, O gracious Lord.

Ruthenian
Byzantine
Catholic
Metro-
politan
Province

O Heavenly King

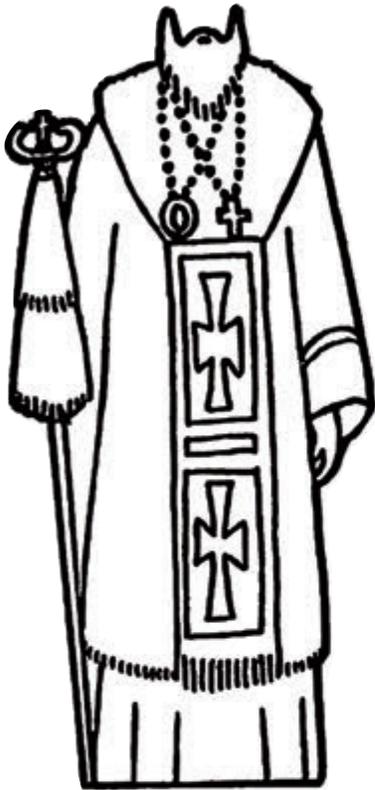
Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of truth, You are present everywhere and fill all things: Treasury of blessings and Giver of life! Come and dwell within us. Cleanse us of all stain and save our souls, O gracious Lord.

Ukrainian
Catholic
Diocese of
St.
Josaphat

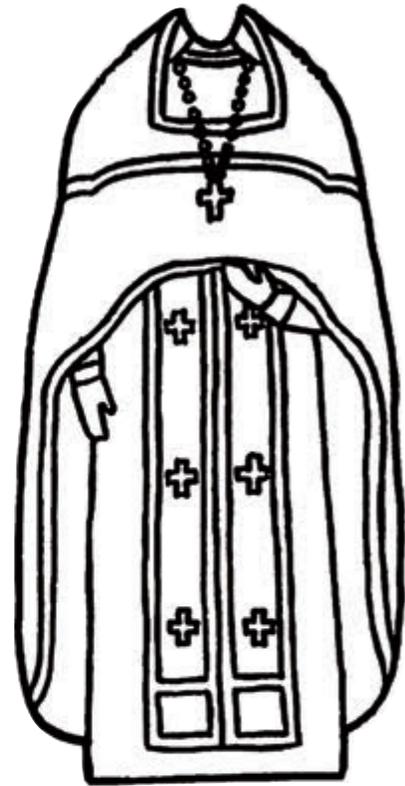
O Heavenly King

Heavenly King, Advocate, Spirit of truth, who are everywhere present and fill all things: Treasury of blessings, Bestower of life! Come and dwell with us. Cleanse us of all that defiles us and, O good One, save our souls.

Ukrainian
Catholic
Synod



Bishop's Vestments



Priest's Vestments



Deacon's Vestments

Unit 1

A People of God: The Church

Review

1. What is the Greatest Commandment?

(Lesson 1: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength and you shall love your neighbor as yourself.")

2. Why is Jesus called our Savior?

(Lesson 2: Jesus saved us and gave us eternal life.)

3. Why does Jesus want everyone to be saved?

(Lesson 3: Jesus wants everyone to be with God.)

4. What is a Christian?

(Lesson 5: A Christian is a follower of Jesus Christ who believes in Him and has been baptized.)

5. What is the Church?

(Lesson 5: The Church is the people of God who follow Jesus as their Lord.)

6. Whom do our Church leaders follow?

(Lesson 6: They follow Jesus, the perfect example of a leader.)