

Objectives

By the end of this lesson, the students should be able to

- identify the role of the ministry of bishops and priests in the Church.
- identify the hierarch(s) in your Church.
- define a synod or council as a gathering of bishops who come together to discuss problems before a final decision can be made.

For the Catechist

The twelve Apostles were chosen by Christ as the first group of Christians entrusted with ministry in the early Church. Because they were chosen by Christ and were eyewitnesses of the risen Christ, no one could fully take their place and follow them in their unique ministry. Nevertheless, the Church recognizes many types of ministry as sharing in some aspect of the Apostles' mission. Some seventy other apostles are mentioned in the New Testament and remembered in the Church calendar. Certain great Saints have been termed "Equal to the Apostles" because they were important in establishing the Church in certain areas in the world.

Another group of ministers in the Church are the bishops whom Christian tradition has termed "successors to the apostles." Their ministry is to oversee the Churches (*bishop* means an overseer). As the Christian communities grew, more spiritual leadership was needed. Presbyters (elders) or priests became the overseers for smaller church groups and served in a more limited role than the bishop. At all principal Church services, we pray for all our Church leaders that they may be a blessing for the Churches they serve.

In the *God With Us* series, the Grade 3 book introduces the children to the Church hierarchy who lead the Church. This year they are asked to recognize the way our Church leaders build up the Body of Christ.

Materials Needed

Opening and Closing Prayers: Prayer Page

Review: Note cards from last lessons

Introduction: Worksheet at the end of this lesson

The Message: New Testament, pictures of your bishop and priest, poster board, construction paper, pens, markers, glue

Application: Pens and pencils, note cards

Icons and Pictures

Come Bless the Lord: Three Holy Hierarchs

Connections

1. Opening Prayer (2 minutes)

Have the students gather before the icon and stand silently for a few seconds. Then make the sign of the cross. Continue with the prayer for the Church leaders—"O Lord, remember ..."
(prayer page)

2. Review (*Martyrs*) (1 minute)

Use the note cards from the last lesson. Have the students define the following words: *relic*, *Antimension*, *martyr*.

3. Introduction (6 minutes)

Materials: "What Should You Do?" worksheet at the end of this lesson.

Have the students divide into groups and work out one scenario that tries to include all the suggestions for one problem on the worksheet. Give the students two minutes to organize. If possible let them rearrange the room to help with the skits. Present the skits and discuss how people in charge must make different decisions.

Ask: Are many people affected by the decisions that were made? Does that make it harder to decide on what to do? What helps the principal make the decision?

Connect the importance of making good decisions by a person in charge to the importance of our Church leaders making good decisions for all of us. Turn to the student book to learn about the Church leaders.

Notes for the lesson:

(Use this space to write helpful hints to use each year)

Alternate:

a) Have the students circle one answer for each problem described on the "What Should You Do?" worksheet. Organize the students in groups of three. One student gives his or her worksheet to the person to the right. That person writes on the worksheet the list of people affected by the answer circled and the effect.

b) Pass the worksheets again to the right. This time the person decides whether the decision was good or not and writes the reasons at the bottom. Pass the papers to the right again so the original writer has his or her paper.

c) Share the answers and responses to the entire class. If there is time, ask: *Do you think it would be difficult to be a principal? Why? Is it difficult being a leader in any job or group? Why?*

The Message

4. Church Leaders (2 minutes)

a) Tell the students to look at the title of this lesson. Ask: *Who do you think are our shepherds and teachers?* (The leaders of the Church)

b) Read the first paragraph and have the students read the Scripture aloud. Ask: *What was done?* (They prayed over them and laid hands on them.)

c) Continue the reading. Write the words *bishop* and *priest* on the board. Ask the students to write the name of your bishop and your priest.

Supplementary Activity:

Write the question for this lesson on the board or on a poster board: *Who are the shepherds and teachers of the Church?* Write the following answers when you read them in the text.

1. The priests and bishops who preach the Word of God.
2. The priests and bishops who lead us to become one with Jesus through the Mysteries.
3. The priests, bishops, archbishops, metropolitans, the patriarchs, and the popes.

14

Those Who Are Shepherds and Teachers

Who are the shepherds and teachers of the Church?



Church Leaders
The Apostles, called by Christ, were the first leaders of the Church. As the Church grew, the Apostles appointed bishops as leaders of the Christian community. Read Acts 6:6 to see how they did this.

Bishops became the leaders of the Church in every city. The bishops led the people in worship and taught the Word of God. Because the bishops became the leaders of the Church after the Apostles died, we call them "Successors to the Apostles."

To this day bishops are responsible for leading God's people and teaching the Word of God in their city and nearby communities. They encourage the faith of their people and lead them in serving Christ. They establish churches, schools, and programs to build up the Church in the area entrusted to their care. The territory for which a bishop is responsible is called an eparchy.

As the Christian community continued to grow, the bishop could not be present in every parish at one time. The same is true today. The bishop sends out the priests to represent him.

76 *We Are God's People: Grade 5* Unit 3: Many Gifts, One Giver

Background Reading:

(The Early Church)

"The early Church increasingly unified its structures into the model we have today. By the second century the local Church increasingly consisted of a single community led by one overseer (bishop) assisted by a body of presbyters as counselors and by deacons as workers. In a sense the local Church resembled the modern parish rather than a diocese. The bishop was the equivalent of today's pastor while the presbyters' function resembled that of catechists and counselors. It was during the second century that the term 'priest' began to be applied to the bishop as celebrant of the Eucharist. As pastor-teacher of the local Church the bishop came to personify the priestly role of the Body of Christ. In some Churches the presbyters would conduct weekday services of prayer and preaching, but only if the bishop was absent would a presbyter be designated to preside at the Eucharist" (ID 110-111).

4. Church Leaders

(continued)

d) If you have pictures of your Church leaders, show them to the students. (You can find pictures in Church newspapers and parish and diocesan websites.) Remind the students that our bishop sent us our priest just as they did in the early Church.

5. Church Hierarchy

(2 minutes)

a) Read the three paragraphs.

Ask: *Who are the hierarchs?* (Bishops of all ranks) *What is a synod?* (A meeting of bishops)

b) Ask: *Are many people affected by the decisions made at synods? What people are affected?* (All of us who follow the teaching of the Church)

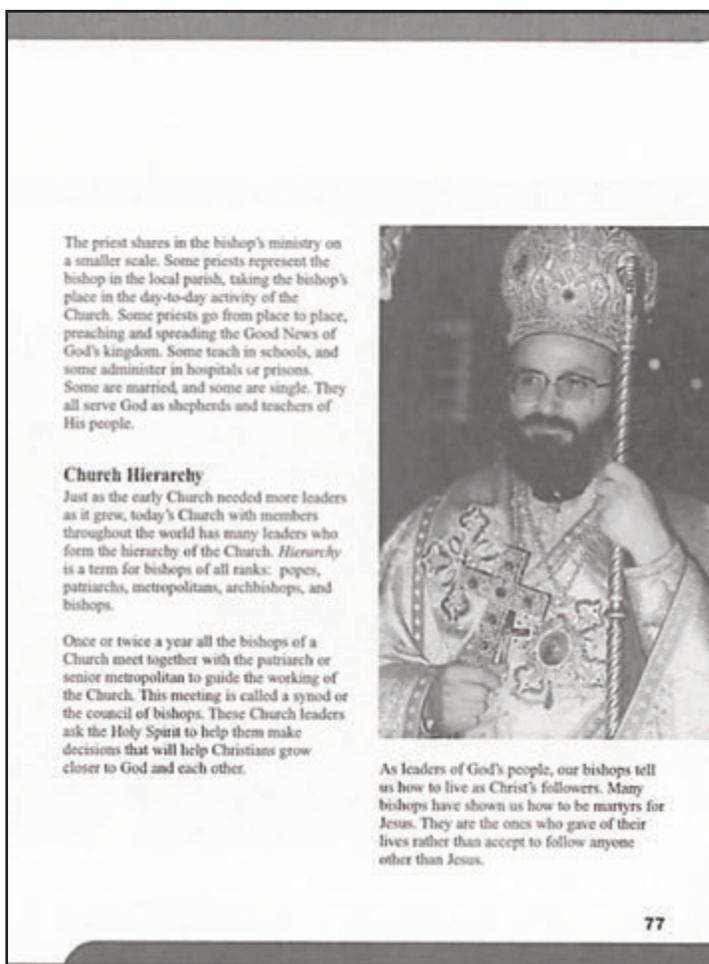
Background Reading:

(Bishops and Presbyters)

"As the local Churches grew, the need for more than one meeting arose. Particularly after the legalization of the Church in the Roman Empire, the number of Christians increased dramatically, especially in the cities. Bishops began designating presbyters to travel to subsidiary sites and to celebrate the Eucharist in the bishop's place on a more permanent basis. By the time Christianity was the religion of the empire and every village and neighborhood had its churches, the presbyters became the most regular celebrants of the Eucharist. Presbyters eventually came to be permanent residents of the villages they served and were often ordained for service in a specific parish church. other than Jesus.

"The prayers of ordination reflect this shift.

Where the earlier role of the bishop was to preside at the Eucharist and the presbyter's role was to teach, the current Byzantine prayer for ordaining a presbyter sees his role as meant to 'proclaim the Gospel of Your kingdom, offer to You spiritual gifts and sacrifices, and renew Your people with the bath of regeneration.' Still the connection with the bishop as principal liturgist was preserved. At first, in some Churches, the presbyters took the Eucharist with them from the bishop's celebration. Later in the Byzantine Church the antimimension given by the bishop to a presbyter was his authorization to serve a Liturgy as the bishop's delegate" (ID 111-112).



The priest shares in the bishop's ministry on a smaller scale. Some priests represent the bishop in the local parish, taking the bishop's place in the day-to-day activity of the Church. Some priests go from place to place, preaching and spreading the Good News of God's kingdom. Some teach in schools, and some administer in hospitals or prisons. Some are married, and some are single. They all serve God as shepherds and teachers of His people.

Church Hierarchy
Just as the early Church needed more leaders as it grew, today's Church with members throughout the world has many leaders who form the hierarchy of the Church. *Hierarchy* is a term for bishops of all ranks: popes, patriarchs, metropolitans, archbishops, and bishops.

Once or twice a year all the bishops of a Church meet together with the patriarch or senior metropolitan to guide the working of the Church. This meeting is called a synod or the council of bishops. These Church leaders ask the Holy Spirit to help them make decisions that will help Christians grow closer to God and each other.



As leaders of God's people, our bishops tell us how to live as Christ's followers. Many bishops have shown us how to be martyrs for Jesus. They are the ones who gave of their lives rather than accept to follow anyone other than Jesus.

77

6. Ordination (2 minutes)

a) Ask: *Has anyone ever seen an ordination?*

b) Read the paragraphs. Divide the students into two groups. One group rereads the first paragraph and makes a list of what happens. The second group does the same for the second paragraph. One person from each group comes to the front of the room and together they tell what happens at an ordination

c) Ask: *Does the bishop placing his hand on the priest's head remind you of a scriptural passage that we read? (What was read in Scripture about the Apostles placing their hands on the assistants.) The laying on of the hands has been done since the beginning of the Church!*

7. Let us remember that... (2 minutes)

a) Have the students count off by six to form six groups—one for each number. Give each group one piece of construction paper on which they write one title: Group 1 writes *priest*; group two writes *bishop*, etc. Then they are to add two facts below the title. If possible, write the name of that person in your Church.

b) Glue these papers onto a posterboard with the title of your Church at the top. If possible, add the pictures of the person for your Church. Have the groups teach their facts by using the poster.

Supplementary Activity: Have the students make note cards to be used to review the words in the section.

Background Reading

(The Hierarchy of the Eastern Church)

". . . The fourth century saw an increasing tendency to organize the increasing number of local Churches to pattern the civil organization of the state. . . Local Churches, what we would call dioceses or eparchies, were grouped together under the primacy of the Metropolitan, usually the bishop of the principal city in the district.

"At the First Council of Nicaea (325) the Church recognized the Bishops of Rome, of Alexandria, and of Antioch as having super-metropolitan rank. They each had several provinces under them, each with its own metropolitan and suffragan (subordinate) dioceses. This status, later accorded the title 'patriarchate,' was extended to the Bishops of Constantinople and Jerusalem over the next 150 years. While the ranks and titles of bishops increased, the sacramental equality of all bishops has always been affirmed. In the Byzantine tradition, at least, there is no distinct rite for ordaining these different ranks of bishops. The various primacies of patriarchs, metropolitans, and archbishops were created to facilitate unity among bishops rather than as distinct orders. All these primates remain, first of all, the bishops of their local Churches" (*ID* 114).



Let us remember that . . .

Priest is the second rank of Holy Orders. Priests are delegates of the bishop, appointed to lead small units of the Church called parishes. The priest may perform all the Mysteries except Holy Orders. He may teach and preach on behalf of the bishop and direct a small part of the Church in the bishop's name.

Bishop means overseer or supervisor. It is the title given to the highest of the three ranks of Holy Orders. The bishop's task is to supervise the life of the Church in a given area. Besides performing all the usual tasks of a priest, the bishop is able to ordain or confer the Mystery of Holy Orders on others. He also consecrates churches, chrism, and antimenia. The bishop is the chief teacher of the Church in his eparchy.

Archbishop or **Metropolitan**, both mean "chief bishop" of an area that includes several eparchies. They are usually head of churches in a large city or metropolis.

Patriarch means "father among the bishops." It is often the title of the chief bishop of a nation or an entire Church. He calls and presides over the meetings of the synods of bishops and is chief spokesman for his Church in all matters.

Pope comes from the Greek word meaning "father." It is a special title of the bishops of Rome and Alexandria. The Pope of Rome is the first hierarch in the entire Catholic Church, the spiritual Father of all Catholics. He is the successor of Saint Peter to whom Christ gave the first place in the Church (Matthew 16:18-19).

Hierarch means "chief priest." It is a term for bishops of all ranks: popes, patriarchs, metropolitans, archbishops, and bishops.

Ordination
The priests and bishops are ordained for the service of the Church through the Mystery of Holy Orders. The Holy Spirit comes upon the person being ordained and gives him the special graces and help to carry out his duties. Bishops are the only ones who can confer this Mystery.

The chief part of the ordination ceremony occurs when the person being ordained is brought before the bishop. The bishop places his hands upon the person's head and prays that the Holy Spirit strengthen him for his new office. Then the bishop gives him the distinctive robes of his new office.

78

8. Blessed are they...

(4 minutes)

This unit includes stories about people from the 20th and 21 st centuries to help the children realize that people are living the way Jesus taught them in the Sermon on the Mount.

"Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied" is the Beatitude for this week's lesson.

a) Read the story as a group or silently. Also, consider reading the story to the students as they follow—children are never too old to listen to a good story.

b) Ask the following:

- *Why is the bishop keeping people out of his church?* (To protest the actions of the Israeli government)
- *What are some of the things the archbishop had to consider?* (The government's reaction to him and his people)
- *What justice does the archbishop want?* (The people to move back to their homes)
- *How would you feel if you were not allowed back to your home? What would you do?*

Supplementary Activity:

Make a poster board for the Beatitudes. Have the students write the Scripture (Matthew 5:3-11) down the center of the board. Place the name of the person or people from the lesson whose lives teach us how to live out the Beatitudes.

If the class is large, have the students work in groups to complete the posters. Continue working on this poster throughout the unit.

Blessed are they . . .

A bishop is often faced with difficult decisions. It is most challenging when a bishop has to defend the truth or fight for justice against opposition. The following story of Archbishop Raya was told in newspapers around the world in August of 1972. His protest was broadcast nationwide and aroused considerable support for the villagers' request to return to their rightful homes.



Archbishop Leads Protest
In Israel, all Byzantine Catholic churches were closed yesterday to mourn for what the Archbishop of Nazareth called "the death of justice in Israel." The bishop, Archbishop Joseph Raya, forbade celebration of the Divine Liturgy and all other services this past Sunday to protest the actions of the Israeli government. The government refused to allow Arab Christians to return to the two villages from which they were forced to leave twenty-four years ago.

In October 1948, the Israeli army entered Berem, where nearly 800 Maronite Catholics lived. The army also entered Ikrit, home of over 600 Greek Catholics. A week after the army entered these two villages, they asked the people to leave for security reasons. The army assured the people that they would be allowed to return within 15 days. To this day, these people have not been permitted to return to their homes.

In 1951, the Supreme Court of Israel authorized the return of these village inhabitants, so long as the military command would also grant the return. Five months later, the army destroyed all buildings in the two villages with the exception of the churches.

In an open letter to Prime Minister Golda Meir which appeared in the newspaper Jerusalem Post, Archbishop Raya asked Mrs. Meir to reverse her decision not to permit 500 former residents of these two villages to return to their homes. Only the week before, at a two hour meeting, the Prime Minister told Archbishop Raya that the long-promised return was impossible because of "reasons of security."

Yesterday, in Nazareth, Archbishop Raya led a demonstration and explained his position. "No end justifies injustice," he said, "even if that end seems to be the good of the state or of a nation. If you base security on denial of justice, no amount of money can guarantee that security. Not even an army as strong as the Romans will be able to insure it."

~ From the Beatitudes ~
*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be satisfied.*

79

Application

9. Heroes of Eastern Christianity

(15 minutes)

This section includes stories about many courageous Christians. The student book has two of the stories, and the teacher's manual has two other stories. Photocopy the additional stories if you need them.

The information from these pages may be used for the "Action Plan" page. Also, the details may be used to create a presentation to be shown at the end of the class or during a final project that is part of Lesson 22.

First, have the students read one story. If there are enough students, have all the stories read by someone or by groups. The following are suggestions on ways to present the information:

1. Have the students present a summary of the details while another student displays the icon of the saint.
2. Have the students complete a biographical sketch of the saint and read that to the students.
3. Act out a short skit that shows one aspect of the saint's life.
4. Write a newspaper article that reports one story about the saint.
5. Write a television newscast story complete with details about the scenes and dialogue.
6. Have the students keep a journal of saints. After they have read the information, let them write answers for the following in the journal (one student can write all the answers or it can be passed around the group for responses):
 - For what do you think this saint would want to be remembered?
 - What would you ask him or her if you had the chance? What do you think would be the answer?
 - If you could join this saint for a few years, what part of his or her life would you pick? Why did you make that choice?

[See page 222 for a worksheet that can be used for the journal.]

Heroes of Eastern Christianity

Saint Basil the Great
Born in Caesarea (present-day Turkey) in the year 329, Basil belonged to a wealthy and pious family of ten children. His parents, two brothers, a sister, and his grandmother are also honored as saints. He was ordained a priest when he was thirty-six years old, and later was consecrated Archbishop of Caesarea in the year 371. Basil was to be a bishop for only nine years. He died on January 1, 379, at the age of fifty.

Basil had studied at Constantinople and Athens. When he returned to his native town, he joined his close friend, Gregorius Nazianzus, and the two young men led throughout the Middle East to visit monasteries and study their way of life. In 356, after two years of this journey, Basil returned to Caesarea and settled in his brother Peter to live a dedicated Christian life.

Soon others joined them and formed the first monastery in that part of the world. Basil's vision, Gregory, and some other women also gathered nearby to live a Christian life together, forming a community. Basil encouraged all of them to do work. The monks, for example, took care of the monastery to be visited and fed. Nearby they set up a house for homeless elderly men. Basil wrote many of his letters down and these letters are still followed by most Eastern monasteries. Even Western monks were to some degree influenced by Basil's teachings.

Five years later, Basil was recalled to Caesarea by his archbishop, who wanted

Saint Basil the Great
Basil's help in leading the Church. Basil was ordained a priest and began a five-year stay

Metropolitan Andrew Sheptytsky
(1866-1944)
(Shep-48-414)

A boy named Andrew was born in 1866, the son of a count and countess in the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The Sheptytshys were originally Byzantine Catholics, but, like many others, attended the Roman Catholic Church because it was the Emperor's Church. So it was quite a shock for the Count to hear that his eighteen-year-old son wanted to enter a Byzantine Monastery. The Count refused permission and insisted that his son enter the army instead.

The son obeyed his father, but God's plan would not fail so easily. After a few months in the army, Andrew became ill and had to be discharged from the army. The count still would not allow Andrew to enter the monastery, but insisted that he attend the university instead. Again, Andrew obeyed. As soon as he received his degree, the young count entered the monastery.

After four years in the monastery, Andrew was ordained a priest. He served as a teacher in the monastery school and also preached in churches in that area. He began publishing a magazine, and soon became widely known in Ukraine. So it was no surprise when, only seven years after his ordination as a priest, Father Andrew was chosen to be Bishop of Stanislaw.

It was a very great surprise when the next year the thirty-five-year-old bishop was named Metropolitan of Lviv and head of the Byzantine Catholic Church in Ukraine. As

metropolitan, Andrew worked tirelessly to build up the Church in his care. He established many monasteries and convents, often using his family inheritance to do it. He also worked to strengthen the ties between the Eastern and Western Churches, and published many books and organized many conferences for this purpose.

World War I began a time of great political change in Ukraine, and great problems for the Church. The Soviets seized control of Western Ukraine from Austria during the war and began attacking its leaders. Metropolitan Andrew was accused of anti-Soviet activities and was imprisoned for three years. He was released at the end of the war to see Western Ukraine become a part of Poland. The Poles were no kinder than the Russians had been.

Metropolitan Andrew was again accused on many charges. It took the protest of the Pope of Rome to influence the Roman Catholic Poles into releasing him. They did so, but began a ten-year campaign of harassment against Ukrainians, both Catholic and Orthodox. The only thing that stopped this harassment was the German invasion of Poland in 1939.

Through all this trouble, Metropolitan Andrew fought to save people from persecution. He always spoke against the anti-Ukrainian way in which Orthodox Ukrainians were treated in Poland. When the Germans took over, he defended the hated Jews, being as many as he could in monasteries and even in his own home. He did all this and more, even though he had been paralyzed since 1930, unable to walk.

Metropolitan Andrew died in 1944 at age 79. "And now," he said, "you will not hear my voice again until the Last Judgment." Then he died.

Optional Activities

Have the students read all the saints' information. Have them work in groups and write a script for a "Who Am I?" program. Present the program at the end of this lesson or the end of the unit.

or

List four facts about one saint and write them on a note card. Write the name of the saint on the other side. Complete cards for all the saints in this lesson. Collect these cards to be used as review for future lessons.

10. Action Plan

Materials: pencils
(15 minutes)

a) Have the students complete the section on shepherds and teachers. Remember that there are two additional pages of information about shepherds and teachers at the end of this lesson in this teacher's manual.

b) Use the remaining time to work on the final group project. Have the students get together in their groups and brainstorm about their project.

11. Summary (5 minutes)

Use a game show format ("Who Am I?") to review the names of the leaders of the Church. Use the "Let us remember that..." section of the lesson. Have the students work in groups of two—one person writes the definition on a note card and the other the name on the other side. After all cards are made, shuffle them.

Form two teams. Choose one person to read the description. The first person to raise a hand gets to tell everyone in his or her group the answer quietly. Then, everyone in the group must say aloud the correct word for the group to get the point.

12. Closing Prayer

(2 minutes)

"O Lord, remember..."

(Prayer page)

Action Plan

Heroes of Eastern Christianity

Read the life story of one of the bishops, and complete the outline on this page. As you write the details about this courageous Christian, think about his choices that show us how to live our life for Jesus Christ.

_____, Shepherd and Teacher

A. He lived in the _____ century.

B. Three important facts about his life:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

C. Something he wrote or said: _____

D. This hierarch is best known for _____

Now work on the final project that will be presented at the end of this unit. Last week you decided on the person you want to present. This week brainstorm on what you can do for your presentation. At the bottom of this page is a list of possibilities. By the end of class, decide how you will present your information. Next week you will begin writing the words you will say and organizing the material you need for the project.

Some ideas that you might want to consider for your visual presentation about a bishop:

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. Make a drawing, icon, mosaic, or stained-glass window of the person. | 5. Make a visual representation of something concerning his life, work, or death. |
| 2. Draw a map of the place where he lived. | 6. Make a model of some aspect of his life. |
| 3. Make a title banner, which should include his name. | 7. Write a poem, song, riddle, or news story about him. |
| 4. Letter one or two of his sayings on colored paper. | 8. Create a play that acts out some action from his life. |

02

What Should You Do?

What does it mean to be in charge of a group as the head of a family, the school principal, the town mayor or club president? Find out by pretending you are the principal for the day. Read each of the situations and choose one scene to act out in class. Use the possibilities to organize your skit or think of other ones to include. Remember—you are the principal!

1. One of the teachers gets sick in class. A student comes to your office and tells you that you must
 - a. find a substitute
 - b. send for a doctor
 - c. call her family
 - d. all of these

2. While you are taking care of this, a parent calls to complain about her son's grades. You
 - a. listen to her
 - b. ignore her
 - c. have her call back
 - d. promise to call her later
 - e. investigate at once

3. When you finish with her, all the lights go out. You
 - a. send for the janitor
 - b. call the electric company
 - c. dismiss classes.

Prayer

(From the Commemorations of the
Divine Liturgy)

First, Lord, remember His
Holiness, N., Pope of Rome,
His Beatitude our holy Patriarch
N., and our father and bishop
N. Preserve them to Your holy
Churches in peace, safety, honor,
health, long life, rightly dispensing
the word of Your truth.

People: Remember all men and
women.

The Melkite Greek Catholic Church

Prayer

(From the Commemorations of the
Divine Liturgy)

First, Lord, remember His
Holiness, N., Pope of Rome,
His Beatitude our holy Patriarch
N., and our father and bishop
N. Preserve them to Your holy
Churches in peace, safety, honor,
health, long life, rightly dispensing
the word of Your truth.

People: Remember all men and
women.

The Melkite Greek Catholic Church

Prayer

(From the Commemorations of the
Divine Liturgy)

Be mindful first, O Lord, of our
Most Holy Father, Pope N., and our
most reverend (arch-)bishop N.
granting them to Thy holy
Churches in peace, safety, honor,
health, and length of days,
faithfully teaching the word of Thy
truth.

People: And of all the people.

The Romanian Greek Catholic Diocese
of Canton

Prayer

(From the Commemorations of the
Divine Liturgy)

Be mindful first, O Lord, of our
Most Holy Father, Pope N., and our
most reverend (arch-)bishop N.
granting them to Thy holy
Churches in peace, safety, honor,
health, and length of days,
faithfully teaching the word of Thy
truth.

People: And of all the people.

The Romanian Greek Catholic Diocese
of Canton

Prayer

(From the Commemorations of the
Divine Liturgy)

Among the first, O Lord, remember our holy father (Name), Pope of Rome, our most reverend metropolitan (Name), our bishop (Name) whom God loves; preserve them for your holy churches in peace, safety, honor, and health for many years as they faithfully impart the word of your truth.

People: And remember all your people.

The Ruthenian Byzantine Catholic
Metropolitan Province

Prayer

(From the Commemorations of the
Divine Liturgy)

Among the first, O Lord, remember our holy father (Name), Pope of Rome, our most reverend metropolitan (Name), our bishop (Name) whom God loves; preserve them for your holy churches in peace, safety, honor, and health for many years as they faithfully impart the word of your truth.

People: And remember all your people.

The Ruthenian Byzantine Catholic
Metropolitan Province

Prayer

(From the Commemorations of the
Divine Liturgy)

Above all, remember, Lord, our most holy universal pontiff (Name), Pope of Rome, our most blessed Patriarch (Name), our most reverend archbishop and metropolitan (Name), our God-loving bishop (Name). For your holy churches keep them in peace, safety, honor, and health for many years rightly teaching the word of your truth.

People: Remember all people and all their intentions.

The Ukrainian Catholic Diocese of
Saint Josaphat

Prayer

(From the Commemorations of the
Divine Liturgy)

Above all, remember, Lord, our most holy universal pontiff (Name), Pope of Rome, our most blessed Patriarch (Name), our most reverend archbishop and metropolitan (Name), our God-loving bishop (Name). For your holy churches keep them in peace, safety, honor, and health for many years rightly teaching the word of your truth.

People: Remember all people and all their intentions.

The Ukrainian Catholic Diocese of
Saint Josaphat

Prayer

(From the Commemorations of the
Divine Liturgy)

Among the first, remember, O Lord,
our most holy universal pontiff
(Name), Pope of Rome, our most
blessed Patriarch (Name), our most
reverend metropolitan (Name), our
God-loving bishop (Name). For the
sake of Your holy churches may they
live in peace, safety, honor, and health
for many years and rightly impart the
word of your truth.

People: And remember all men and
women.

The Ukrainian Catholic Synod

Prayer

(From the Commemorations of the
Divine Liturgy)

Among the first, remember, O Lord,
our most holy universal pontiff
(Name), Pope of Rome, our most
blessed Patriarch (Name), our most
reverend metropolitan (Name), our
God-loving bishop (Name). For the
sake of Your holy churches may they
live in peace, safety, honor, and health
for many years and rightly impart the
word of your truth.

People: And remember all men and
women.

The Ukrainian Catholic Synod

Heroes of Eastern Christianity

(Part 2)

Saint John Chrysostom (pronounced: Kris-is-tum)

Saint John Chrysostom, a Syrian, is considered one of the greatest early Christian preachers. He is noted for his strength of character, courage, and eloquence for which he got the nickname "Chrysostom," which means "Golden-mouthed."

Saint John was born in the city of Antioch in northern Syria in the year 349. Antioch at that time was a center of culture, but a boiling pot of luxury, sin, and heresy. John's father was a high ranking army officer who died shortly after the boy's birth. John was then raised by his mother, a woman of great courage and piety. She gave him the best available education in those days.

When his mother died, John was still a young man. He was not satisfied with the easy life in Antioch, so he gave away his possessions to the poor and went to live in the nearby mountains for six years, spending his time in studying the Scriptures, and praying. His health was not the best, however, and he was forced to return to an easier life in the city.

In Antioch he was ordained a deacon in the year 381, and a priest in 386. And so he was thirty-seven years old when he began his remarkable career as an eloquent preacher at the Cathedral Church. John preached in Antioch for twelve years. The people came in large crowds to hear him. He preached every Saturday and Sunday, and sometimes every day. The people were so deeply impressed by his preaching that they often applauded him right in the Cathedral.



Upon the death of the Patriarch of Constantinople in the year 397, Saint John was chosen as the successor and was ordained a bishop. He immediately began inspiring the city and the clergy, opening hospitals and relieving the misery of the poor.

In 403, a group of John's opponents brought false charges against him and had him removed as bishop. He was exiled from Constantinople, but was allowed to return after just a few days because of a strong reaction from the people. The next year he was exiled again for criticizing the empress for her luxurious life and for her disrespect for the Church. Suffering from hardships and fever, John died in exile in the year 407 at the age of fifty-eight. His last words were, "*Glory to God for all things.*"

The Divine Liturgy most often celebrated in Byzantine Churches is named after Saint John. But he is best known for his sermons, most of which were written and have been preserved. Saint John Chrysostom's feast day is celebrated on November 13.

Kontakion of Saint John Chrysostom

From heaven you received divine grace, and from your lips we all learn to worship one God in the Trinity, O blessed and holy John Chrysostom. It is right that we praise you, for you are indeed a teacher, revealing the things of God.

Patriarch Maximos IV

Maximos IV of Antioch, Melkite Patriarch, was one of the most important Catholic hierarchs of the twentieth century. Born in Syria in 1878, the future patriarch studied in his home city and in Jerusalem. He was ordained a priest in 1905 and became one of the Missionaries of Saint Paul, a Melkite Community in Lebanon. Seven years later he became the head of this community and spent all the time during the First World War working and traveling throughout the Middle East aiding the afflicted people.

In 1919 he was elected Metropolitan of Tyre. It was a time of political upheaval and violence because Syria and Lebanon were struggling for independence from terrorism, and he helped to save the lives of his people.

In 1933 he was named Metropolitan of Beirut, a post he held for fourteen years. During this time, Greek Catholics in the Middle East became more aware of their tradition: The whole Church was called to a greater faithfulness to the traditions of Eastern Christianity. If the Greek Catholics could show the riches and beauty of their traditions to Western Christians, there would be a greater understanding of how truly rich the Church really is. Greek Catholics in the Middle East re-examined their heritage with greater interest. They took new pride in the ancient ways of the Byzantine Churches. Many began to feel that the Western Church had much to learn from the Christian East.

This was the thinking in 1947 when the Greek Catholic Bishops of the Middle East elected



Maximos Saigh to be Patriarch of Antioch. Maximos first demanded that his own people be faithful to their heritage. He also spoke to the Western Church, pointing out those parts of the Eastern tradition which he felt

were more practical for our own day than the ways of the Roman Church: rule of the Church by a council of bishops, services in the language of the people, selection of married men as priests and deacons. The new patriarch also worked for better understanding with the Orthodox Church to which the Greek Catholic Church is so close.

Maximos was at the Second Vatican Council, when all the Catholic bishops of the world—over 2,500 in number—met in Rome to discuss the activities of the present-day Church. The patriarch was recognized as one of the most important hierarchs in the world. One Western bishop even said, "If you asked me to name that man who put Catholicity back into the Church, I would not hesitate to say it was Maximos."

Maximos IV was also important in drawing the Orthodox and Roman Churches closer together. He worked to arrange the first meeting between a Pope of Rome and a Patriarch of Constantinople in hundreds of years. For this accomplishment the Orthodox Patriarch called Maximos "the champion of the opening up of the Western Church to the Eastern Church."

At 89, Patriarch Maximos IV died in 1967. He lived to see the great works of his late life take root: the Greek Catholic Churches were becoming more faithful to their Byzantine heritage, and the Orthodox and Roman Churches were closer than they had been for 1,000 years.