

Special Leaders in the Church

Allelu!

Growing and Celebrating with Jesus

Lesson 11, Kindergarten

Lesson 11 Goal

- Your child will understand that the Pope is the earthly leader of our universal Church and the bishop leads the parishes in his local diocese.

Key Points

- The Catholic Church exists all over the world.
- The Pope, the bishops, and the pastor are special leaders in the Church.



Parent Reflection

Knowing he would soon be leaving his followers, Jesus not only chose twelve disciples who would teach everything he had commanded (Matthew 28:20), but he also chose a particular leader to shepherd those he had called to leadership.

In Matthew 16:19, Jesus says to Peter, “I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

When the Apostles died, their successors were chosen by the remaining Apostles, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We see this practice beginning in Scripture with the choosing of Matthias to succeed Judas (Acts 1:15–26). This practice continues to the present day, though its form has changed somewhat with the growth of the Church.

Like the other eleven Apostles in Peter’s time, our bishops are charged with oversight of the Church in their local area, or diocese, and the Pope guides the bishops and helps to settle any matters upon which consensus needs to be reached. The office of Pope is a source and sign of our unity as Catholics’—one flock, under one shepherd (John 10:16).

Reflection Question

In what ways am I “living what I celebrate” in my daily life?

Lesson Preparation

Before inviting your child to sit with you for lesson time, prepare all materials.

Materials

- Family Activity Sheet
- crayons, colored pencils, or markers
- safety scissors
- drawing paper
- picture of current Pope (easily available on-line)

- Activity Master #2 – Saint Page (Keep the saint pages from each lesson to gather together a Communion of Saints Book created by your child.)

Preparation Steps

- Make sure your child has a copy of Activity Master #2 (included with this lesson).

Gathering

Create a prayerful space. You might place a candle on the table, or set a cross in front of you. Invite your child to join you in quietly preparing for prayer.

Say the following or similar words: “Now that we are in this prayerful space, let us find the quiet in our hearts so we can talk with God.”

Sit together for several seconds of shared silence.

Say, “Did you know that there are Catholic people like us all around the world? Let’s pray for them, knowing they pray as we do! Let’s also pray for the Pope, the leader, of all the world’s Catholics, and the bishops, who are his helpers.”

Begin in prayer:

Make the Sign of the Cross together or bless your child by tracing a cross on his or her forehead: “In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

Name some countries in the world and together pray for the people in those countries.

Parent: *Dear Jesus, today we pray with the Catholics in (name of country).*

Parent and child: *Jesus, hear the prayers of all of us!*

Discovering

Prayers for All of Us. Turn to the first page of the Activity Sheet and read about Jesus’ prayer for the Apostles and those who would follow them.

Ask your child, “Who did Jesus pray for? Why?”

Turn to the second page of the Activity Sheet. Ask your child the “Ask Me!” questions and review the answers.

Exploring

Use the following activities to enrich your child’s understanding of the lesson and of our Catholic faith.

1. Church Leaders. Turn to the main activity of the Activity Sheet (center pages) and invite your child to describe what he or she sees. Give your child crayons or colored pencils. Explain the activity to your child and have him or her complete it. Point out the pope and the bishops in the picture.

2. Pictures to the Pope. Talk to your child about our current Pope. If possible, display or

show your child a picture of him. Invite your child to draw a picture or write a letter to the Pope. Help your child if he or she wants to write words on their picture. Should you wish to actually send the pictures/letters, you can use the following address:

His Holiness Pope (name)
Vatican City State, 00120
Italy

3. The Communion of Saints: Pope Saint John XXIII. Show your child the picture of Pope Saint John XXIII on the Family Activity page and read about him. Then read more about Saint John XXIII to your child (see below).

Ask your child:

▶ “Pope John had a great-uncle who helped him grow closer to God. Who helps you grow closer to God?”

▶ “What did you like best from the story about Saint John XXIII?”

Have your child write and draw about Saint John XXIII using Activity Master #2.

Sending

Pray for the Church with your child. Begin by making the Sign of the Cross together, or bless your child by tracing a cross on his or her forehead. Pray aloud with your child.

“Dear Jesus, today we pray with all of the Catholics in the whole world.”

Invite your child to pray for Church leaders or for any other intention.

Parent: *Jesus, hear the prayers of all of us!*

Parent and Child: *Amen.*

Pope Saint John XXIII

Good Pope John

Angelo Roncalli lived on a farm in Italy with his family. His great-uncle Zaverio was a holy, loving, and smart man who spent time with Angelo. He helped Angelo come to love God and see all people as God’s family.

When Angelo grew up, he became a priest. He learned many new things, but he kept all that his great-uncle Zaverio had taught him in his heart. As a priest, Angelo had many jobs. During a war, he carried hurt people to hospitals. Because he saw how bad a war can be, later, he wrote an important paper called “Peace on Earth.”

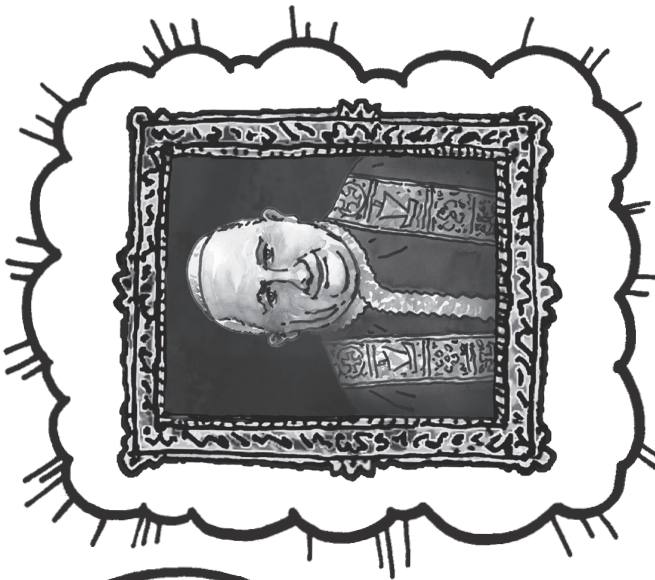
Later Father Angelo Roncalli had jobs in other countries. He loved meeting people and saw how important it is for people to work together even when they had different ideas. “I don’t

want to hurt anyone. I always try to be honest. I try to trust others,” Father Angelo said. “I look people in the eye and remember that Jesus wants us all to be one family.”

People saw how he loved life. He often smiled, laughed, and made jokes. He became a bishop, and then, he was picked to be the Pope! He chose to be called John. Often, he was called Good Pope John.

Pope John worked hard. He wanted Catholics to work and pray together and to reach out to others with respect and love. As the popes before him, he continued to make the Church a good place for people to come to know and love God. And all over the world, people came to love Good Pope John, too.

DRAW



**John
XXIII,
pray for us!**