

## PRIEST HIERARCHY

January 15, 2017

### WHAT'S THIS?

Ordinary Time During Winter

*January 10 through February 28*

Ordinary Time is not a season like Lent and Advent, nor does it have a set number of days or weeks. Ordinary Time during the winter is an arbitrary designation and includes those days that fall between the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord and Ash Wednesday. In fact, the day after the Baptism of the Lord, which was Monday, January 9, begins the First Week in Ordinary Time; hence the following Sunday is the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time.

"Follow me." "Come after me." These are Jesus' invitations to the first disciples. They are also his invitations to us. During this period, the meaning of discipleship centers on our willingness to journey with Jesus, the Son of God and Messiah, who heals, casts out demons, feeds the hungry, and dines with tax collectors and sinners. During these eight weeks, we must decide whether we wish to come after Jesus, deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Jesus.

Our parish liturgies call us to serve as Jesus served and to do God's will as disciples of Jesus, the Son of God and Son of Man, the Christ. His glory and light we proclaimed during Christmas Time. Now this glory and light beckons us on toward the Cross and the Kingdom of heaven through a life of discipleship beyond the weeks in the interim after Christmas Time and before Lent.

Remember January is the Month of the Holy Name – Jesus

The very name of Jesus is a prayer.

*Excerpts taken from the 2017 Sourcebook for Sundays, Seasons and weekdays.*

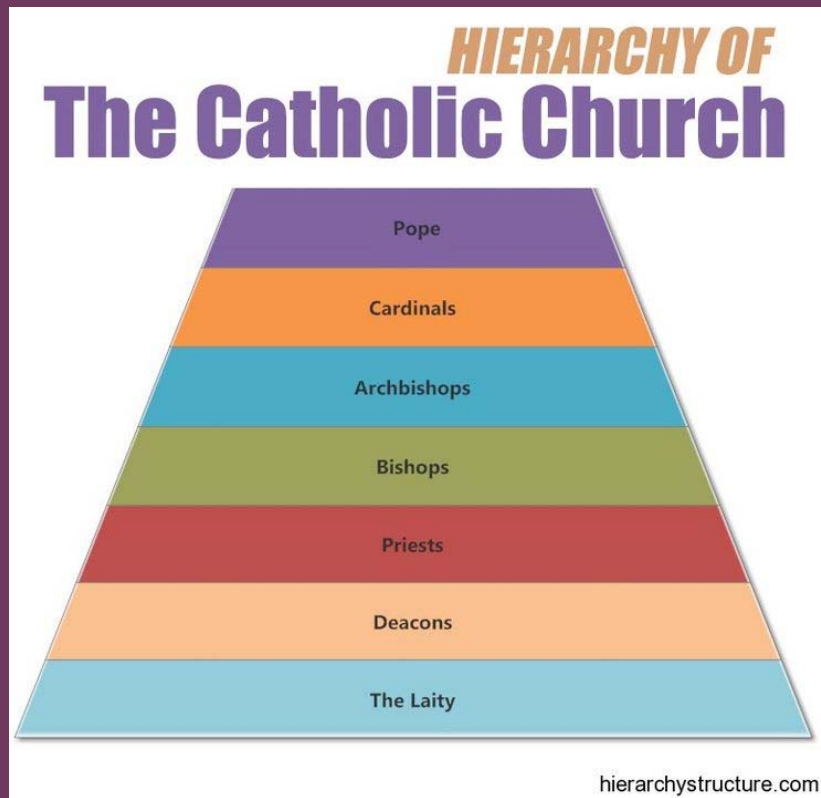
# PRIEST HIERARCHY

January 22, 2017

## WHAT'S THIS?

Ordinary Time During Winter—*January 10 through February 28*

Have you ever wondered what the hierarchy of the Catholic Church really is? What does it take to become the Pope? Is there a difference between a Bishop and an Archbishop? What is a Monsignor? During the next few weeks of Ordinary Time, we will attempt to answer many of these questions.



Remember January is the Month of the Holy Name – Jesus  
The very name of Jesus is a prayer.

# PRIEST HIERARCHY

January 29, 2017

## WHAT'S THIS?

Ordinary Time During Winter—*January 10 through February 28*

In the hierarchy of the Catholic Church, the Pope is at the top, cardinals, bishops, priests, deacons and then laity at the bottom. Deacons, priests, and bishops are considered *clerics*, members of the clergy, in the Catholic Church. The laity compose the majority of the Church. As lay people, we can also take part in some of the sacred rituals of the Church by being altar servers, lectors, and lay ministers who can help distribute the Holy Eucharist during Mass and bring Holy Communion to shut-ins and those in the hospital.

### THE ROLE OF DEACONS IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Catholics recognize two types of deacons:

- *Permanent deacons* are men ordained to an office in the Catholic Church who normally have no intention or desire of becoming priests. He can be single or married. If single, he must remain single during his diaconate. If married, he must be over the age of 35 and be married *before* being ordained a deacon. If his wife dies before him, he may be ordained a priest if the bishop permits and approves, however he may not marry again without special permission. Permanent deacons, especially those who are married, have secular jobs to support their families and also help the local pastor by visiting the sick, teaching the faith, counseling couples and individuals, working on parish committees and councils, and giving advice to the pastor.
- *Transitional deacons* are *seminarians*, students in the last phase of training for the Catholic priesthood. After being a deacon for a year, they are ordained a priest by the bishop.
- Deacons can baptize, witness marriages, perform funeral and burial services outside of Mass, distribute Holy Communion, preach the *homily*, and are obligated to pray the Liturgy of the Hours each day. These are the 150 Psalms and Scriptural readings from the Old and New Testament that every deacon, priest, and bishop pray every day.

*Excerpts from [www.Dummies.com](http://www.Dummies.com)*

# PRIEST HIERARCHY

February 5, 2017

## WHAT'S THIS?

Ordinary Time During Winter—*January 10 through February 28*

### DISTINGUISHING TYPES AND THE ROLE OF PRIESTS IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

In the Catholic Church, a parish priest appointed by the bishop to represent him to the local parish is called a pastor (Rev. Ken Knippel). The pastor is helped by an associate pastor (Rev. Nathaniel Miniatt) and/or a permanent deacon, religious sister, or lay parishioners—all known as *pastoral associates*. The pastoral council and finance committee, which are made up of lay parishioners for the most part, advise and counsel the pastor but don't have administrative or executive authority.

Catholic priests are either *diocesan priests* who belong to the diocese they're located in or *religious order priests*, whose affiliation is with a particular religious order. The typical parish priest is usually a diocesan priest. He makes a promise of obedience to the local bishop and a promise of celibacy. A diocesan priest gets a modest monthly salary from the parish. Priests may receive honoraria and gifts from baptisms, weddings, and funerals, but it's important to note that a priest never charges any fees for his services. Diocesan priests have their own living quarters and are responsible for buying and maintaining their own automobiles, as well as personal property.

Religious priests are known as *order priests* after the religious order they belong to, such as the Franciscans, Dominicans, Jesuits, Benedictines, and Augustinians. They wear particular *habits* and take vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. They don't own their own cars or have personal possessions. They own the clothes on their back and little else. They normally live together with members of the community. Members of a religious order don't get salaries but are given an extremely modest monthly allowance. If they need to buy something expensive or want to take time off for vacation, they must ask permission of the superior.

A parish priest may celebrate Mass daily, hears confessions, gives marriage counseling, provides pre-nuptial counseling, gives spiritual direction, anoints and visits shut-ins and the sick in hospitals and nursing homes, teaches *catechism* to children and adults, baptizes, witnesses marriages, performs funerals and burials, attends numerous parish and diocesan meetings, prays privately every day, does spiritual and theological reading, and finds time to relax with family and friends. Once a year, he's expected to make a five-day retreat, take ten days or two work weeks of continuing education and take four weeks of vacation, in addition to doing his regular spiritual direction and daily prayer.

*Excerpts from [www.dummies.com](http://www.dummies.com)*

# PRIEST HIERARCHY

February 12, 2017

## WHAT'S THIS?

Ordinary Time During Winter—*January 10 through February 28*

The pastor is appointed by the bishop as "the proper shepherd" of the parish. He must fulfil his duties to teach, to sanctify and to govern the faithful with the cooperation of the priests, deacons, religious and lay members of his parish. These duties include the preaching of the Word of God in its entirety. A special emphasis is placed on the pastor's obligation to provide for the Catholic education of his people, particularly children and young adults, and ensuring that the most holy Eucharist is the center of parish life.

The term "Parochial Vicar" is interchangeable with the terms "Associate Pastor" and "Assistant Pastor". A "Parochial Vicar" is a priest who is assigned by the competent authority to assist the pastor in the pastoral ministry of a parish.

A diocesan bishop must appoint at least one vicar general for his diocese, but may appoint more. The vicar general, by virtue of the office, is the bishop's agent in administration, acting as second-in-command for diocesan executive matters. Vicars general must be priests, auxiliary bishops, or coadjutor bishops. He is to possess a doctorate or at least a licentiate in canon law (JCD, JCL) or theology (STD, STL) or be truly expert in these fields.

A priest in a separate office, the judicial vicar, serves a similar role with regard to the exercise of ordinary judicial power of governance in the diocese which is normally exercised in ecclesiastical courts.

The Roman Catholic Church uses "monsignor" as a title for certain respected, senior priests. The term "monsignor" is simply an honorary title to acknowledge the importance of the current duties they are performing as priests. In 2014, Pope Francis abolished the practice of granting priests under the age of 65 the honorary title of "monsignor" as a way of discouraging those priests who may have been seeking this title for their own glorification. From now on, only diocesan priests over the age of 65 will be eligible to receive the title.

*Excerpts from [www.Dummies.com](http://www.Dummies.com)*

# PRIEST HIERARCHY

February 19, 2017

## WHAT'S THIS?

Ordinary Time During Winter—*January 10 through February 28*

### THE ROLE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS AND ARCHBISHOPS

In the Catholic Church, bishops “rank” below cardinals. Becoming a bishop is the third and fullest level of the Sacrament of Holy Orders. The first level is the ordination of a deacon, the second is the ordination of a priest, and the third is the ordination of a bishop.

A bishop oversees a diocese, which is a collection of local parishes. A bishop who administers an archdiocese, which is just a larger diocese such as Milwaukee, is called an archbishop. You can think of a local parish like a town or city, and the local pastor, a priest, is like the mayor. The diocese is like a state, and the bishop is like the governor. An archdiocese is like a very populous state, such as California or Texas. The Most Reverend Jerome ListECKI is the Archbishop of Milwaukee.

Bishops are appointed by the Pope. When the Pope decides that a certain priest is to become a bishop, this means that the priest has been chosen to be one of the successors of the Apostles. The mere announcement of the Pope’s choice, however, does not make a priest a bishop; he must also receive the *episcopal consecration* in order to become a member of the *episcopacy*. Once he has been consecrated, a bishop has additional sacramental authority that an ordinary priest does not have: bishops may ordain men to the diaconate and the priesthood, he can confer the sacrament of confirmation to the faithful and a bishop can consecrate other bishops.

Each bishop must make a visit to the Holy Father every five years and give a report on his particular diocese. The bishops within an entire country or nation get together at least once a year in a gathering known as an *episcopal conference*.

Only bishops have the authority to administer the Sacrament of Holy Orders whereby men are ordained deacons, priests, or bishops. Bishops make visits to the parishes and chair numerous meetings with their staff.

Each individual bishop has his own authority to run the diocese. He’s not an ambassador of the pope but governs the local diocese as an authentic successor of the apostles, just as the pope governs the universal Church as the successor of St. Peter.

*Excerpts from [www.Dummies.com](http://www.Dummies.com) and [canonlawmadeeasy.com](http://canonlawmadeeasy.com)*

# PRIEST HIERARCHY

February 26, 2017

## WHAT'S THIS?

Ordinary Time During Winter—*January 10 through February 28*

### THE ROLE OF CARDINALS IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Immediately below the Pope in the hierarchy of the Catholic Church are the cardinals. The cardinals are the most senior priests in the Church below the Pope. A bishop is elevated to the level of cardinal by the Pope. There is a sacramental change when a priest becomes a bishop, but when the Pope announces a bishop is to become a cardinal, there is no change. There is an official announcement and a ceremony at the Vatican where the new cardinal receives his red hat, but there is nothing specifically “sacramental” about it as a bishop already possesses the fullness of holy orders.

The primary responsibility of a cardinal is to elect a new pontiff when the seat of Peter is vacant.

Cardinals form the Roman Curia, which is a whole group of administrators (Cardinal Prefects)—something like cabinet members who assist the president. For example, a Cardinal Secretary of State represents the Vatican to foreign governments. Other cardinals have different areas of responsibility, called *congregations*. One cardinal oversees all the bishops around the world, another congregation is Catholic education, another deals with evangelization, to name a few. A different cardinal also heads up each of several commissions and councils, as well as three high courts of the Catholic Church: the Apostolic Penitentiary, the Apostolic Signatura, and the Roman Rota, all of which deal with canon law and its application and interpretation.

Cardinals who don't work in the Curia run an archdiocese, mostly functioning as an archbishop would—ordaining, confirming, and doing the day-to-day business of being chief shepherd of the archdiocese. These cardinals may also supervise two to several dioceses, usually all in the same state or region.

Lent begins this Wednesday, March 1

*Excerpts from [www.Dummies.com](http://www.Dummies.com), [canonlawmadeeasy.com](http://canonlawmadeeasy.com) and [catholic-pages.com](http://catholic-pages.com)*

# PRIEST HIERARCHY

March 5, 2017

## WHAT'S THIS?

Ordinary Time During Winter—*January 10 through February 28*

### THE POPE: HIS JOB AND HOW HE'S ELECTED

Known worldwide and to Catholics as *the pope*, the bishop of Rome is the supreme and visible head of the Catholic Church. The pope has many titles, but the most common and best-known ones are Pope, Holy Father, and Roman Pontiff. He has two main responsibilities:

- He's the bishop of Rome, which means he has supreme, full, immediate, and universal jurisdiction all over the world (although the title says "Rome", the job encompasses the whole Church).
- He's the head of the entire Catholic Church. As head of the Church, the pope directs the faithful around the world both directly and through mandates to the bishops who oversee the administrative territories known as dioceses. He also elevates bishops to the rank of cardinal.

The pope is elected by the College of Cardinals; which is comprised of all of the cardinals around the world. Cardinals are bishops handpicked by the pope to become cardinals. Their primary function becomes electing a new pope when the pope dies or resigns. A two-thirds majority decision is needed to elect a new pope. If no one receives two-thirds of the votes or if the nominee declines the nomination, then wet straw is mixed with the paper ballots and burned in the chimney. The wet straw makes black smoke, which alerts the crowds gathered outside that there's no papal successor yet. When someone receives two-thirds of the votes and he accepts the papacy, the ballots are burned without the straw, which blows white smoke to alert the crowds. The cardinals cast votes twice a day, every day for 21 elections. If no one is elected by a two-thirds majority, then on the 22nd ballot, the man who receives a simple majority (50 percent plus one) is elected pope.

Excerpts from [www. Dummies.com](http://www.Dummies.com)