

Glossary of Terms

Bishop

A bishop is an ordained or consecrated member of the Christian clergy who is generally entrusted with a position of authority and oversight. The traditional role of a bishop is as pastor of a diocese. This ministry is derived from the apostles of Jesus Christ by a continuous succession.

Crozier

A crozier is the stylized staff of office carried by bishops, cardinals and the pope. It is shaped like a shepherd's crook as they are shepherds of the flock of God.

Diocese

A diocese, from the Greek, meaning "administration", is the district under the supervision of a bishop. A diocese is divided into parishes.

Mass

The Catholic Church sees the Mass (or Eucharist) as "the source and summit of the Christian life", to which the other sacraments are oriented. The Mass, which takes place on Sundays, consists of two main parts: the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Mass is also celebrated daily in many parishes.

Parish

A parish comprises all Catholics living in its area, but parishes can also be established within a defined geographical region on a personal basis for Catholics of a particular rite, language, nationality or the like. (There are no such parishes in the Diocese of Alexandria-Cornwall.) The parish is overseen by a parish priest.

Although the term parish refers to the people, the church building is often referred to as the parish.

Titular Bishop

A titular bishop is a bishop without a diocese. Rather, the bishop is head of a titular see, which is usually an ancient city that used to have a bishop, but, for some reason or other, does not have one now.