

The Church Teaches Us

Keep these ideas in mind as you study **Unit 3, Session 12**.

Jesus chose twelve apostles to be his closest companions, and he made Peter their leader.

PAGE 48

Jesus called Peter the rock upon whom he would build his Church.

PAGE 48

Today the Church is led by the pope and the bishops, who are the successors of Peter and the apostles. Guided by the Holy Spirit, the pope and the bishops continue the apostles' mission and carry out Jesus' teachings.

PAGE 48

The pope unites the bishops and the whole Christian community.

PAGE 48

Most bishops are responsible for a local geographical church, which is called a diocese. Priests assist the bishops in their ministry.

PAGE 49

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As members of the Church, we belong to a community that reaches all the way from our local parish to the pope in Rome.

PAGE 49

The Precepts of the Church describe the minimum effort we are called to make in prayer and living a moral life.

PAGE 50

The apostles thought of themselves as carrying on the tradition of the 12 tribes of Israel. These Jewish tribes were descendants of Abraham and Sarah.

ART PRINT 12

Jesus' twelve apostles were the Church's early leaders. Before Jesus was crucified, he was betrayed by one of them, Judas Iscariot.

ART PRINT 12

To help the remaining disciples decide on a replacement for Judas Iscariot, they cast lots. Matthias was chosen as the new apostle.

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