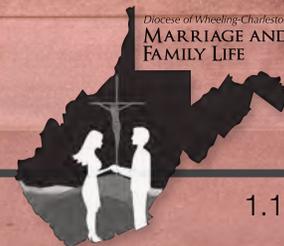


Traditio

Strong Families! Strong Faith! Strong Church!

Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston
MARRIAGE AND
FAMILY LIFE



1.1

Family Resource for The Appointment of the New Bishop

Why do we have bishops in the Catholic Church?

While Jesus was engaged in His public ministry He instituted a specific structure for the Church. From all of His disciples Jesus called forth twelve men for a specialized leadership role. Their particular calling was to be the chosen witnesses of Jesus' Resurrection from the dead and to whom He gave teaching authority and priestly power on His behalf. Though Jesus' public ministry ended with His ascension into heaven, the mission and ministry of Jesus continues through the work of the Catholic Church. The Church in the world is set up in such a way that the fullness of the Good News of Jesus and the Sacraments He instituted continues until Christ returns. The word hierarchy literally means "holy origin."

We believe the bishops are modern-day apostles. The word apostle means "one who is sent." The great responsibility that Jesus gave to the apostles was to baptize people and to teach everything He commanded them (Matthew 23: 18-20). To go, baptize, preach, and teach. As Catholics we profess the Church is apostolic, which means every bishop of the Catholic Church is a successor of one of the twelve apostles. Each bishop can trace his lineage back to one of the apostles. Thousands of years later we continue the tradition of Jesus' institution of the Church.

How is a man chosen to be a bishop?

The process has developed over the centuries but remains essentially the same from the foundation laid down by St. Peter as the first pope. (Acts 2: 15-26.) St. Peter sees in the broken number of apostles a need to restore the college of apostles number to 12, the symbolic number of completion. St. Peter even sets requirements for who is eligible to be nominated as Judas' replacement. Matthias and Barsabbas were nominated. The Church prayed. The lot went to Matthias. It was not until the apostles' number was restored did the full power of the Holy Spirit get released for the apostles to go out and bring the nations to Jesus Christ.

Throughout the centuries the Holy Spirit has raised up certain men to serve as bishops to teach, to sanctify and to govern a local Church or diocese. It is the bishop's responsibility to be the primary, or the ordinary/first, preacher of the Gospel and teacher of Catholic faith. The diocesan bishop is the one who ensures the faithful receive the sacraments validly and that the sacraments are celebrated faithfully. The bishop is the only one who can validly ordain men to the diaconate and priesthood. Lastly, it is the bishop's task to oversee or govern a diocese's operations. The bishop ideally is like a loving father who cares for his family.

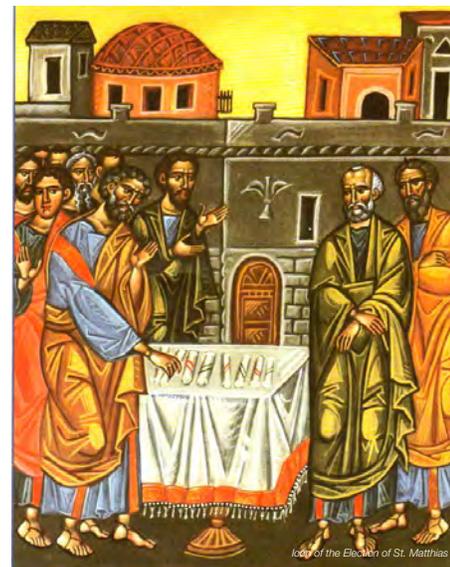
What should we hope for in a bishop?

The same thing we hope for ourselves and our families- holiness. In addition the Church, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, prays and asks God that a bishop be a pastor after [Jesus] own heart, a man of virtue, and a faithful teacher of the Catholic faith. You see, the most important quality of a bishop is to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Practically speaking, a list is compiled of men who seem to fit the first requirement - like Matthias and Barsabbas- and then submitted to Rome. The Pope ultimately makes the decision after recommendations and consultations. After a time of prayer, the Holy Father makes the official appointment and sends a delegate or letter inviting the nominated man to accept. The *United States Conference of Catholic Bishops* has a thorough resource on how bishops are appointed at <http://www.usccb.org/about/leadership/appointing-bishops.cfm>.

What can our family do to help choose the next bishop for West Virginia?

The best thing your family can do is pray and talk about your Catholic faith as a family. Think about it: your family is a mini-version of the Church, called the *domestic church*. You form a vital part of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church family throughout the world who gathers in prayer, worship, belief, and service. For example, your family meals are reflective of the Eucharistic banquet we share at every Mass. Your particular family's prayer is powerful and influences the whole world. Even for the appointment of a bishop! Below are some resources to help your family in her mission.



Morning Offering

Intention

God Our Father,
Raise up for us a faithful priest
Who shall do according to your heart and mind;
And may he walk before You all his days.

(Adapted from 1 Samuel 2:35, Roman Missal Antiphon, For the Election of a Pope or Bishop)

Prayer

O Jesus,
through the Immaculate Heart of Mary,
I offer You my prayers, works,
joys and sufferings
of this day for all the intentions
of Your Sacred Heart,
in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass
throughout the world,
in reparation for my sins,
for the intentions of all my relatives and friends,
and in particular
for the intentions of the Holy Father. Amen.

Family Prayer

Jesus, the Good Shepherd
Grant us a bishop who
Is a loving father,
A gentle shepherd
And a wise teacher,
So that he may lead
the people of the Diocese closer to You. Amen.

(Adapted from the Book of Blessings, Installation of a Pastor, p. 771)

Meal Time Prayer

Eternal shepherd
Who govern Your flock with unfailing care in
abundant kindness
Grant in Your boundless fatherly love a pastor for
our diocese
Who will please You by his holiness
And show us watchful care.
Through the daily offerings we reverently bring to
you, may we come to rejoice that a pastor
pleasing to Your majesty preside over Your holy
Church in West Virginia.
As we are renewed by the supreme Sacrament of
the Eucharist,
May the wonderful grace of Your majesty
Gladden us with the gift of a shepherd
Who will instruct us by his virtues
And imbue the minds of the faithful with the truth
of the Gospel
Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

(For the Election of a Pope or Bishop, adapted from the Roman Missal, p. 1247)

**“The family is placed at the service of the
building up of the Kingdom of God in
history by participating in the life and
mission of the Church.”**

- Pope St. John Paul II, *Familiaris Consortio*

Rely On the Extended Church Family:

The Intercession of the Saints

God has given your family and all her members a special place in the Universal Church with a specific mission that only your family can complete.

The saints have already fulfilled their plan and purpose on earth and have reached the goal of eternal life with Jesus in heaven.

The saints lived virtuously amidst trial and tribulation. By learning from their example and relying on their intercession we gain assistance in becoming who God wants us to be- Saints!

Below are two litanies (long repetitive prayers invoking a particular aspect or title of Jesus, Mary or other saint).

The first is the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Mary holds the exalted place of the Mother of God. She said “Yes” to God and His plan of saving us from sin and death and thus giving to the world the Incarnate Son of God. Mary is full of grace and is obedient to God. Because of who she is and what she does we call her the Queen of Saints. Her intercession at Jesus’ side is powerful.

St. Joseph also holds an honored place in the communion of saints. Joseph was entrusted with protecting and caring for both Jesus and Mary, among other things. He is a model for us because of his obedience to God. St. Joseph is also the patron of our Diocese.

Here are a few tips on using the following litanies as you ask the Holy Spirit to guide the appointment of our next bishop.

- ▶ Identify the different virtues that family members naturally have and celebrate them!
- ▶ Pick a virtue from a litany and ask Jesus to help you cultivate the habit of living it out today. Talk about successes or failures before bedtime.
- ▶ Read the beginning of the Gospels. See if you can name the different virtues of Mary and Joseph.
- ▶ Pick a virtue and ask that our next bishop be a man who strives to live the virtue.
- ▶ Pray for a bishop devoted to Jesus Christ and the example of Mary and Joseph.

Litany of
The Blessed Virgin Mary



Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy on us. Christ hear us.
Christ, graciously hear us.
God, the Father of heaven,
Have mercy on us.
God, the Son, Redeemer of the world:
Have mercy on us.
God, the Holy Ghost,
Have mercy on us.
Holy Trinity, One God,
Have mercy on us.
Holy Mary... *pray for us.*
Holy Mother of God,
Holy Virgin of virgins,

Mother of Christ,
Mother of divine grace,
Mother most pure,
Mother most chaste,
Mother inviolate,
Mother undefiled,
Mother most amiable,
Mother most admirable,
Mother of good counsel,
Mother of our Creator,
Mother of our Savior,
Virgin most prudent,
Virgin most venerable,
Virgin most renowned,
Virgin most powerful,
Virgin most merciful,
Virgin most faithful,
Mirror of justice,
Seat of wisdom,
Cause of our joy,
Spiritual vessel,
Vessel of honor,
Singular vessel of devotion,
Mystical rose,
Tower of David,
Tower of ivory,
House of gold,
Ark of the covenant,
Gate of Heaven,
Morning star,
Health of the sick,
Refuge of sinners,
Comforter of the afflicted,
Help of Christians,
Queen of angels,

Queen of patriarchs,
Queen of prophets,
Queen of apostles,
Queen of martyrs,
Queen of confessors,
Queen of virgins,
Queen of all saints,
Queen conceived without original sin,
Queen assumed into heaven,
Queen of the most holy Rosary,
Queen of peace.
Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world,
Spare us, O Lord.
Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world,
Graciously hear us O Lord.
Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world,
Have mercy on us.
V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.
R. *That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.*

Let us pray:
Grant, O Lord God, we beseech Thee, that we Thy servants may rejoice in continual health of mind and body; and, through the glorious intercession of Blessed Mary ever Virgin, may be freed from present sorrow, and enjoy eternal gladness. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Litany of
Saint Joseph

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.
Christ, hear us.
Christ, graciously hear us.
God, the Father of Heaven, *have mercy on us.*
God the Son, Redeemer of the world, *have mercy on us.*
God the Holy Spirit, *have mercy on us.*
Holy Trinity, One God... *have mercy on us.*
Holy Mary... *pray for us*
Saint Joseph,
Renowned offspring of David,
Light of Patriarchs,
Spouse of the Mother of God,
Chaste guardian of the Virgin,
Foster-father of the Son of God,
Diligent protector of Christ,
Head of the Holy Family,
Joseph most just,
Joseph most chaste,
Joseph most prudent,
Joseph most strong,
Joseph most obedient,

Joseph most faithful,
Mirror of patience,
Lover of poverty,
Model of artisans,
Glory of home life,
Guardian of virgins,
Pillar of families,
Solace of the wretched,
Hope of the sick,
Patron of the dying,
Terror of demons,
Protector of Holy Church,
Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world,
Spare us, O Lord.
Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world,
Graciously hear us, O Lord.
Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world,
Have mercy on us.

V. He made him the lord of His house:
R. And ruler of all His possessions.

Let us pray.
O God, in your ineffable providence you were pleased to choose Saint Joseph to be the spouse of your most holy mother; grant we beg you, that's we may be worthy to have him for our intercessor in heaven whom on earth we venerate as our Protector; You who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.



Saint Joseph, Patron of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

When the Diocese was created in 1850, St. James Parish was Wheeling's only Catholic Church and designated as the diocesan Cathedral. In 1872 Bishop Whelan wrote the Holy Father requesting permission to change the Cathedral's patron from St. James to St. Joseph, who had been designated patron of the Universal Church in 1870. (*Faith in the Mountains: A History of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston*. 2000)

While devotion to and understanding of St. Joseph has unfolded over time, "Scripture points him out to us as the "father" of Jesus (Lk 2:27-48), prepared to carry out the divine plan, even when it eluded human understanding. To him, "son of David" (Mt 1:20; Lk 1:27), God entrusted the safekeeping of the Eternal Word, made man by the power of the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Virgin Mary. St Joseph is described in the Gospel as a "just man" (Mt 1:19), and for all believers he is a model of life in faith" (Pope St. John Paul II, General Audience, 19 March 2003).

The Solemnity of St. Joseph is celebrated on March 19th.

If you would like to know more about Saint Joseph and increasing your devotion to the Patron of our Diocese check out these selected works.

- *Redemptoris Custos*, Pope Saint John Paul II
- *St. Joseph in Early Christianity*, Joseph Lienhard, S.J.
- *St. Joseph: Shadow of the Father*, Andrew Doze
- Online at <http://catholicsaints.info/saint-joseph/>

Learn!



From Sacred Scripture...

- Jesus appoints the 12 Apostles- Matthew 10:1-4, 16:18; Mark 3:13-19; Luke 6:12-16, 24:34; 1 Corinthians 15:5
- Authority of bishops is passed on- John 20:22-23; Acts 1:8; 2:4; 1 Timothy 1:6-7
- Bishops are overseers- 1 Thessalonians 5:12; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 5:14
- Bishops ordain priests and other bishops- Acts 20:28; 1 Timothy 1:3, 3:1-7, 4:11-14, 5:1; Titus 1: 5-14



From the Catechism...

- The Church is apostolic- *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC) 857
- Jesus sends the apostles out- CCC 858-860
- Successors of the apostles- CCC 861-862
- The fullness of holy orders- CCC 1555-1561

Do!

- Work through the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy as a family. Pick one a day or one a week.
- Take the DWC holy card and pray it every day.
- Go to adoration and pray with your family.
- Start a family pious practice one day a week. Ex. Fasting, no TV or phone, etc.
- Show up five minutes earlier for Sunday Mass.
- Pray a family rosary.
- Read a theological work on Christ and the Church.
- Pray the Diocesan novena.
- Use *Traditio* for family discussion and prayer.
- Celebrate the diversity of gifts among family members.
- How does that diversity unify your family?
- Share the importance of your Catholic faith at meal times.
- Do a day of service for the poor at Catholic Charities.
- Talk about why the different members of your family have different responsibilities.
- Start a solidarity project. Ex. A mini family fundraiser for a local charity.
- Have your parish priest over for dinner.
- Thank your parish priest for answering his vocation.
- Host a prayer group at your house.
- Make a pilgrimage or virtual pilgrimage to the Cathedral of St. Joseph or Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart.

Traditio! is a publication of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston: Marriage and Family Life. We strive to build Christ-centered marriages and families and seek to aid families hand on the Catholic faith in an authentic and joyful way. For questions or recommendations on what you would like to see in future publications contact Christopher Bayardi at cbayardi@dwc.org or 304-233-0880 ext.334.