

## Chapter 15

### *Leaders*

There are many different ways to serve but the same Lord.  
*1 Corinthians 12:4*

#### **For the Parent:**

In chapter 15 your child learned to:

- Name the pastor, bishop, and pope
- List ways the pastor is like the Good Shepherd

Jesus chose twelve Apostles from among the ordinary working people of the time: fisherman, tax collectors, and farmers. The Apostles followed Jesus to the cross, observing and marveling at the things he taught and did. Today the Church chooses certain leaders to continue in the footsteps of the Apostles. The pope is spiritual leader of the Roman Catholic Church. He is, in a sense, the pastor of the entire Church. Bishops are appointed by the pope to serve as leaders and shepherds of the local church, the diocese. Occasionally, bishops are named by the pope to serve as cardinals (an honorary title, not an ordained ministry) and to participate in the election of a pope. Each diocese contains many parishes, headed by pastors. The hierarchical structure of the Church provides order and continuity in continuing the work of Jesus.

Ordained ministers are ordinary people called to serve in extraordinary ways. As each person carries out his or her ministry, the Church becomes the Body of Christ.

#### **With Your Child:**

1. Invite your family to make it a point to thank your pastor or your deacon for all they do for the parish.
2. Read about Saint Peter on the Review and Explore page.