



Grades K-2 Resource Guide

WHAT IS THE MISSION OF THE POPE?

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The Office given uniquely by the Lord to St. Peter continues in the Bishop of Rome. He carries out his office of teaching, governing and sanctifying the Universal Church. The other bishops of the Church are united with the Pope and assist him by carrying out the tasks of teaching, sanctifying and governing in local dioceses all the while in union with the Pope.

- *The Pope as Teacher*
The Pope is the expert in teaching. He preaches the Gospel to all people and makes sure that the faith is carefully taught throughout the world.
- *The Pope as Governor*
Because the Pope has the responsibility to lead the whole Church, the Pope has the final authority to lead and guide the Church in matters of faith and teaching.
- *The Pope as Sanctifier*
To sanctify something is to make it holy. The Pope's job, with the help of the Holy Spirit, is to form the us to be holy people. Christ imparts his own holiness to the Church through the life of prayer, worship and the Sacraments.

Suggested Activities:

- Students create a newspaper article that answers the question, "If you were the Pope, what message of Jesus would you write about?" Graphic organizers are available at <http://www.eduplace.com/graphicorganizer/>.
- Students identify the rules at home, in the community, and in the classroom that keep them safe. Second graders can add Church rules.
- Choose a beatitude or a commandment and have the students play a game of telephone to demonstrate how information can be changed when repeated several times. This will demonstrate the importance of passing on the teaching of the Church, the Word of God, the sacraments, and the liturgy of the Mass that has been entrusted to the Pope.

Related and Enrichment Resources:

- *How to be Pope, What to Do and Where to Go Once You're in the Vatican*, Piers Marchant, Chronicle Books, 2005
- <https://www.ewtn.com/holysee/index.asp>
- <http://w2.vatican.va/content/vatican/en.html>