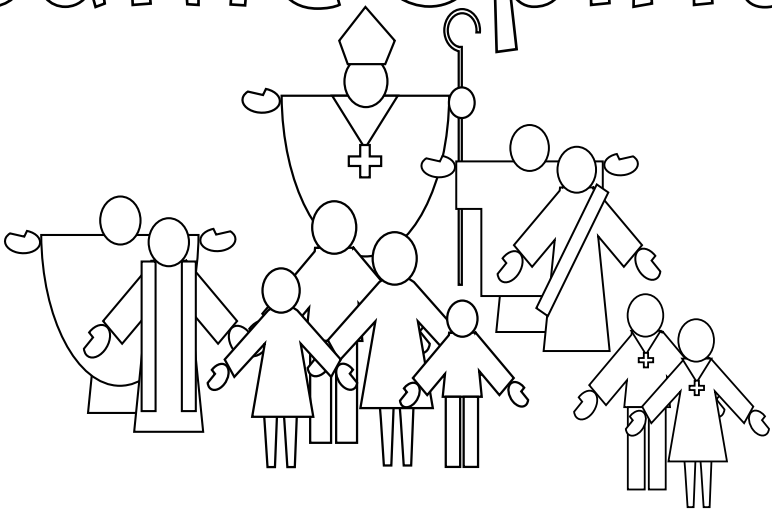


There are
different
gifts,
but the
same Spirit



This book is for God's special child,

write your name here

God has great plans for you!

We all have gifts from God.

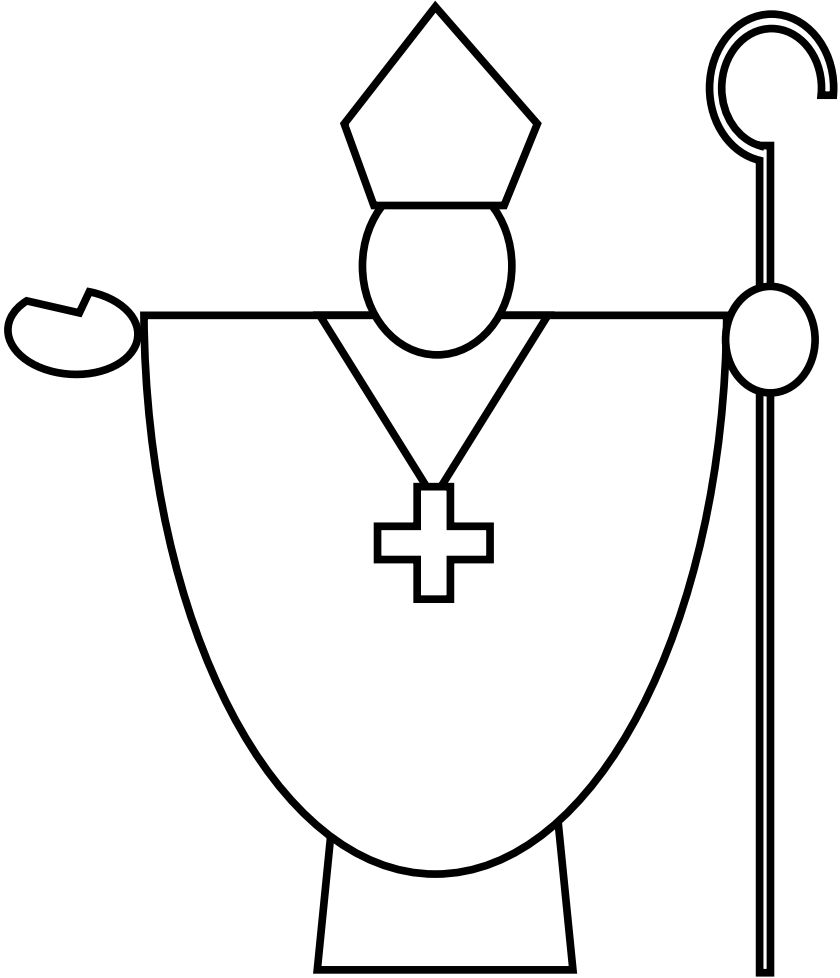
God made each of us special and different. The ways we are different are called **gifts**. Some of us are good at some things, others at other things. God wants us to use our gifts to help others.

In a family, each member has different gifts. Each family member does different things.

It is the same in God's family, the Church. God made each of us to do something special to help others as members of his family.

Let's look at the different ways all God's family works together.

My bishop's name is _____



Give the bishop a face and color him.
The bishop wears a special hat called a **miter** and carries a **pastoral staff**.

The Bishop

The **bishop** leads God's family where we live. He is our sign of unity as followers of Jesus.

He teaches us about God, and makes sure we have what we need to grow in love of God and others. He sends priests to care for us in our parishes. He comes to visit our parish to make sure everything is OK.

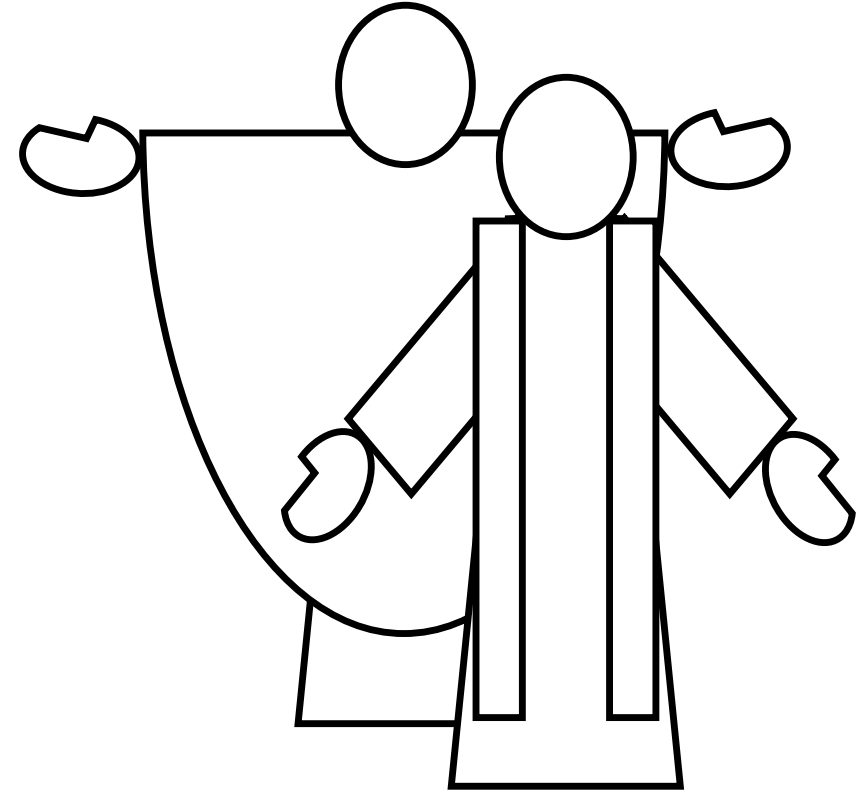
The bishop is in charge of all the buildings and all the money of all the parishes in many cities. He is careful with this important job.

The bishop's home is a special church called the **cathedral**. It is the most important church in our city. You can visit the cathedral and join the bishop at Mass, and say "Hi" to him afterwards! He will shake your hand, because you are his family.

When a bishop is in charge of a very big and important city, he is called an **archbishop**.

My pastor's name is _____

I know other priests named



Give the priests faces and color them.

The priest wears a strip of cloth called a **stole** and a big cloak called a **chasuble**.

The Priests

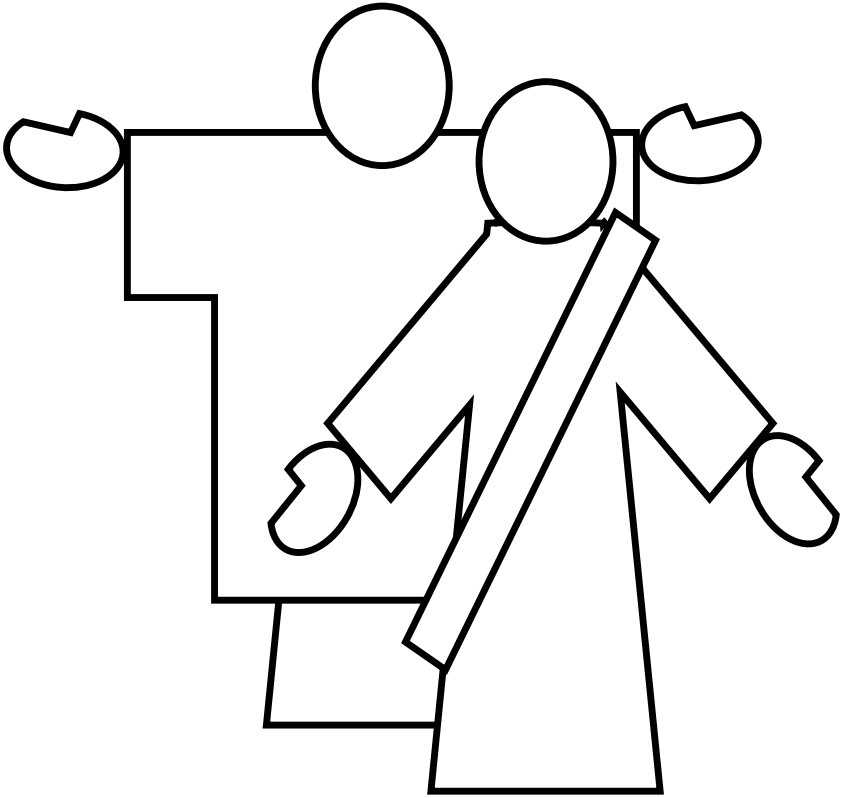
The bishop must take care of so many people that he needs **priests** to help him. When the bishop puts a priest in charge of a parish, that priest is called a **pastor**.

Priests lead us in prayer at Sunday Mass. They explain the Bible to us and teach us how Jesus wants us to behave. They visit sick people and people who are sad. Priests live near the church building so they are close by to help people.

Some priests live together with other priests like a big family and share everything. We call these big families **religious orders**.

Priests bring us Jesus in communion. They also baptize people, help people be sorry for their sins, give special care to people who are very sick and lead funerals and weddings.

My deacon's name is _____



Give the deacons faces and color them.

The deacon wears a strip of cloth called a **stole** and a big cloak called a **dalmatic**.

The Deacons

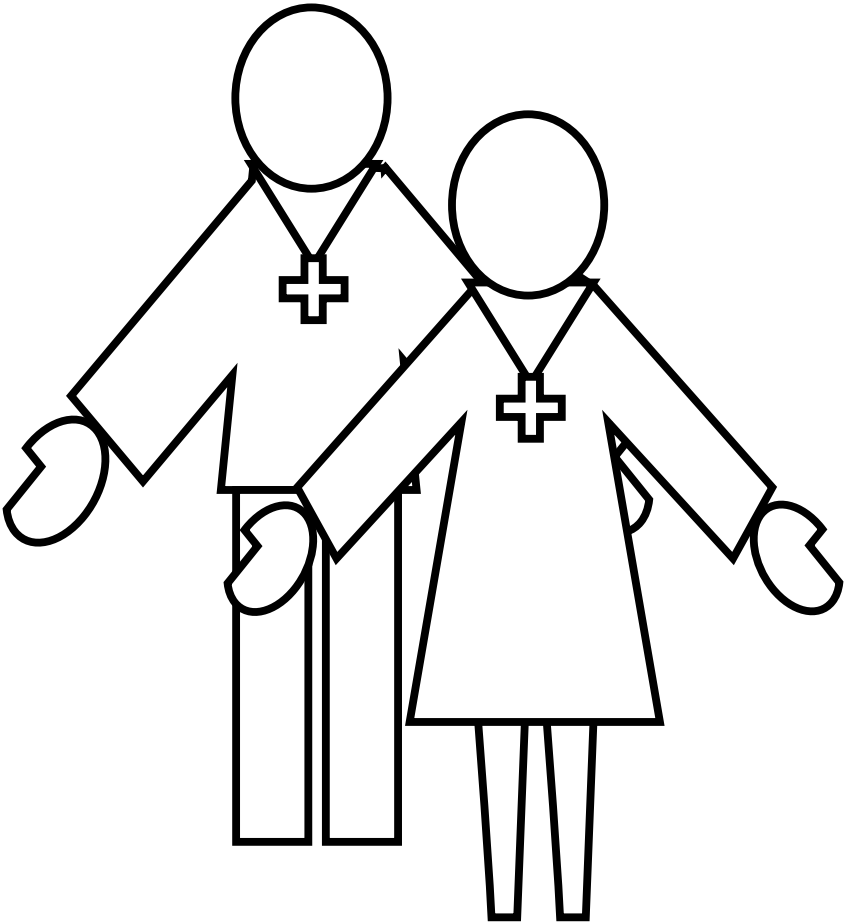
In addition to priests, the bishop has other helpers called **deacons**.

The deacon's most important job is to help people who are poor, or hungry, or homeless, or who other people don't like. He reminds us to do the same thing, and shows us how to help others. Deacons usually are married, and their wives help them do this important job. Deacons have regular jobs like anyone else, so they understand problems people have at work.

The deacon also helps the priest at Mass. He reads the Gospel to us, and explains it to us. He leads us as we pray for all the people in the world.

Deacons are special helpers to the bishop, and he usually sends them to parishes to help out. Deacons also baptize people and lead funerals and weddings.

Names of some religious I know:



**Give the sister and brother faces
and color them.**

Brothers and sisters dress like everyone else
or they may wear special clothes.

The Religious

Some men and women want to spend every day serving God and helping others. They will often join **religious communities**, and we call them **religious**, or brothers and sisters. Sometimes we call the women **nuns**.

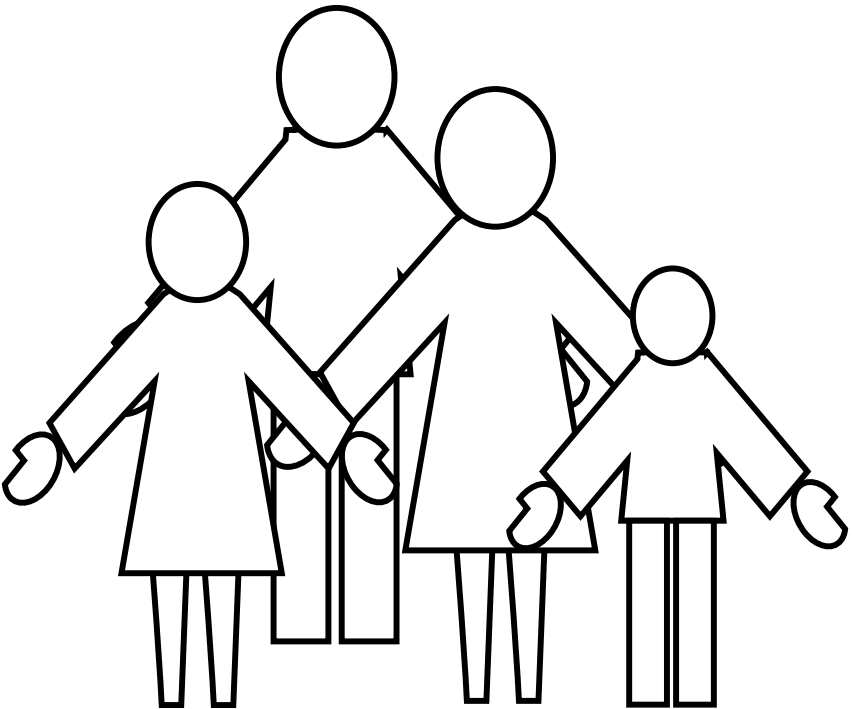
A religious community is sometimes called an **order**. The members of an order live together and share everything they have.

Each order has a special job to do.

Sometimes they teach, or care for sick people, or protect poor people. Some orders work and pray together alone. Some go to far-away places to tell people about Jesus. Some are put in charge of parishes or schools.

Whatever they do, religious men and women help people. They promise not to marry so that their order becomes their family. Some orders are hundreds of years old, and some are very new.

My family's names:



Give the laity faces and color them.
They look just like you!

The Laity

Who are the **laity**? You are! We also call them **lay men and women**.

God has given the members of the laity very different gifts. Some lay people are in charge of parishes or help the bishop with special jobs. Others have important jobs in parishes or set up groups to help people.

Many lay people are married, and have the job of caring for and educating their children. They do their best to do the right thing at work and in making their city a good place to live for everyone. They teach their own children and others about God. Many lay people with very special gifts use their gifts to help others, like doctors who treat poor people for free.

On Sunday, all the lay people gather together for Mass. Some read the Bible to us, and others help in other ways, like boys and girls who serve at the **altar**.

**Draw a picture of yourself
helping someone.**

What gifts are you using?

What are your gifts?

Think about the special ways God has made you different. How can you use these gifts to help your family and others?

Together with the bishop, the priests, the deacons, the religious and all the laity, God wants you to be an important part of the Church and to live as Jesus taught us.

Together, we are all one big Family of God.

Thank God for all the gifts he has given you, and the gifts he gave to others so they can help you.

Think about what you can do today to use your gifts to help others.



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