

CHA's Ecclesiology and Spiritual Renewal Program for Health Care Leaders

Guest Guide

APRIL 19 – 24, 2026





THE SHARED STATEMENT OF IDENTITY *for* THE CATHOLIC HEALTH MINISTRY

We are the people of Catholic health care, a ministry of the church, continuing Jesus' mission of love and healing today. As provider, employer, advocate, citizen – bringing together people of diverse faiths and backgrounds – our ministry is an enduring sign of health care rooted in our belief that every person is a treasure, every life a sacred gift, every human being a unity of body, mind and spirit.

We work to bring alive the Gospel vision of justice and peace. We answer God's call to foster healing, act with compassion and promote wellness for all persons and communities, with special attention to our neighbors who are poor, underserved and most vulnerable. By our service, we strive to transform hurt into hope.

AS THE CHURCH'S MINISTRY OF HEALTH CARE, WE COMMIT TO:

- + Promote and Defend Human Dignity
- + Attend to the Whole Person
- + Care for Poor and Vulnerable Persons
- + Promote the Common Good
- + Act on Behalf of Justice
- + Steward Resources
- + Serve as a Ministry of the Church



*We Will Empower Bold Change to Elevate
Human Flourishing.SM*

Dear Colleague,

Welcome to CHA's Ecclesiology and Spiritual Renewal Program for Health Care Leaders. This weeklong experience offers a unique perspective on the Catholic health ministry and the Church's global work.

Through advanced readings, experiences of prayer and ritual, onsite presentations, visits with representatives of offices of the Vatican/Holy See and experiencing the sacred sites of Rome and Assisi, we hope you will:

- Come to a deeper understanding of a personal call to serve in the health care ministry
- Explore the relationship between personal spirituality, organizational spirituality and the capacity to lead others in the healing ministry
- Understand what it means to be a ministry of the Church
- Gain greater insight into the spirit, structure and functioning of the Roman Catholic Church
- Experience community with other leaders of Catholic health care and develop lasting relationships
- Return home renewed and empowered to lead your organization and colleagues to continue the healing ministry of Jesus Christ

This book will serve as a helpful guide for your experience, offering important details about our time together. We encourage you to become familiar with its contents and to bring it with you to Rome.

Advanced readings and a digital copy of this guide can be accessed by utilizing the QR code on this page.

We look forward to seeing you in Rome,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Diarmuid Rooney". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Diarmuid Rooney
Vice President, Sponsorship and Mission Services





Program Highlights

The following are tentative highlights of the program. A full agenda will be available when you arrive at the program. If you have any questions about the schedule, contact Lori Ashmore-Ruppel at lashmore-ruppel@chausa.org.

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY RATING GUIDE



LEISURELY

Easy pace, little walking and few stairs



MODERATE

Moderate pace, greater distances covered, walking over uneven surfaces, stair climbing and embarking and disembarking motor coaches



CHALLENGING

Vigorous pace, frequent movement, extensive walking over uneven surfaces, hiking, stair climbing where elevators are not available, embarking and disembarking motor coaches

Tentative Program Highlights

Program content, presenters and times are approximate and subject to change.

SUNDAY, APRIL 19

3:00 – 9:00 P.M.



Welcome and Orientation, for Registered Participants and Registered Guests

Opening Eucharist, for Registered Participants and Registered Guests

Opening Session, for Registered Participants

Reception and Dinner, for Registered Participants and Registered Guests

MONDAY, APRIL 20

7:00 A.M. – 9:00 P.M.



Buffet Breakfast, for Registered Participants and Registered Guests

Morning Sessions, for Registered Participants

Buffet Lunch, for Registered Participants and Registered Guests

Afternoon Free Time

Enjoy Dinner and an Evening on Your Own

TUESDAY, APRIL 21
6:00 A.M. – 7:00 P.M.



Assisi Pilgrimage with Breakfast, for Registered Participants and Registered Guests

Lunch and Free Time in Assisi on Your Own

Return to Rome

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22
6:30 A.M. – 9:00 P.M.



Buffet Breakfast, for Registered Participants and Registered Guests

Tentative Papal General Audience, for Registered Participants and Registered Guests

Enjoy Lunch on Your Own and Afternoon Free Time (approx. 11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.)

Integration Session, for Registered Participants

Private Tour of Sistine Chapel and Parts of the Vatican Museum followed by a light dinner at the museum, for Registered Participants and Registered Guests

THURSDAY, APRIL 23
6:30 A.M. – 9:30 P.M.



Buffet Breakfast, for Registered Participants and Registered Guests

Mass at St. Peter's Basilica, for Registered Participants and Registered Guests

Meetings with Dicastery Officials, for Registered Participants

Enjoy Lunch on Your Own and Afternoon Free Time (approx. Noon – 6:00 p.m.)

Reception and Dinner at Casina Valadier, for Registered Participants and Registered Guests

FRIDAY, APRIL 24
8:00 A.M. – 1:30 P.M.



Buffet Breakfast, for Registered Participants and Registered Guests

Closing Session, for Registered Participants

Prayer Service and Commissioning, for Registered Participants and Registered Guests

Closing Luncheon, for Registered Participants and Registered Guests



Attire Guide

Helpful Tips by Day

Please note that dress for the program is “smart casual” unless otherwise noted for specific events.

Sunday, April 19

Welcome, General Orientation and Opening Eucharist – Smart casual

This event is for registered participants and registered guests.

Program Opening – Smart casual

This event is for registered participants.

Reception and Dinner – Smart casual

This event is for registered participants and registered guests.

► Smart Casual Dress

For Men:

- Business casual pants, including all cotton, wool and blends. No shorts or blue jeans, please.
- Business casual shirts, including collared shirts or button-down shirts. Shirts with no collars are appropriate only if they are not T-shirts.
- Appropriate footwear – dress shoes and shoes with rubber soles are appropriate, especially with required walking on uneven pavement and up and down stairs, etc. Please do not wear flip-flops of any kind.
- Please do not wear apparel items with slogans.

For Women:

- Business casual pants, including all cotton, wool and blends.
- Dresses and skirts are appropriate, **but please remember your knees and shoulders must be covered to enter any holy site.**
- Business casual shirts, including collared shirts or button-down shirts, are appropriate, as are sweaters, jackets, etc. **Please remember your shoulders must be covered to enter any holy site.**
- Please do not wear apparel items with slogans.
- Appropriate footwear – low-heeled dress shoes, shoes with rubber soles are appropriate, as are low-heeled sandals. Please do not wear flip-flop sandals of any kind. Remember we will often be walking on uneven pavement, up and down stairs, etc.

Monday, April 20

Morning Program – Smart casual – This event is for registered participants.

Lunch and Presentation – Smart casual

This event is for registered participants and registered guests.

Tuesday, April 21

Assisi – Comfortable/casual dress

This event, for participants and registered guests, will involve strenuous walking on uneven pavement and stairs and exposure to the elements for the majority of the day. Please bring hand sanitizer, hats, sun block or umbrellas as required. It is generally cooler and foggy in the morning, so you might consider bringing a lightweight jacket. **Remember to keep shoulders and knees covered in order to enter all holy sites.**

► **Comfortable/casual dress**

For Men:

- Business or casual pants, including all cotton, wool and blends. Jeans and “cargo pants” are also appropriate. No shorts, please.
- Casual shirts include collared shirts or button-down shirts. Shirts with no collars are appropriate only if they are not T-shirts.
- Appropriate footwear – comfortable shoes, including tennis shoes, sneakers, athletic shoes and shoes with rubber soles are appropriate, especially with required walking on uneven pavement and up and down stairs, etc. Please do not wear flip-flops of any kind.
- Please do not wear apparel items with slogans.

For Women:

- Casual pants, including all cotton, wool and blends. Jeans and Capri-length pants are appropriate. No shorts are permitted.
- Dresses are appropriate, **but please remember your knees and shoulders must be covered to enter any holy site.**
- Skirts are appropriate, but again, they must cover the knee.
- Casual shirts, including collared shirts or button-down shirts, are appropriate, as are sweaters, jackets, etc. **Please remember your shoulders must be covered to enter any holy site.**
- Low-heeled shoes, tennis shoes, sneakers, athletic shoes, shoes with rubber soles are appropriate, as are low-heeled sandals. Please do not wear flip-flop sandals of any kind. Remember that we will often be walking on uneven pavement, up and down stairs, etc.
- Please do not wear apparel items with slogans.

Wednesday, April 22

Papal General Audience – Comfortable/casual dress

This event, for registered participants and registered guests, will involve strenuous walking on uneven pavement and stairs and exposure to the elements for the majority of the day. Please bring hats and sun block or umbrellas as required. ***Remember to keep shoulders and knees covered in order to enter holy sites.***

Debriefing and Integration – Smart casual

This event for registered participants takes place in the Ludovisi at the Westin Excelsior.

Private tour of Sistine Chapel and Vatican Museum – Smart casual

This event, for registered participants and registered guests, will involve walking on uneven pavement and stairs. ***Remember to keep shoulders and knees covered in order to enter the Sistine Chapel.***

Thursday, April 23

St. Peter's Basilica – Professional dress

This event is for registered participants and registered guests. ***Remember to keep shoulders and knees covered in order to enter St. Peter's Basilica for Mass.***

Dicastery Meetings – Professional dress

This event, for registered participants, will involve walking on uneven pavement and stairs.

Dinner at Casina Valadier – Professional dress

This event is for registered participants and registered guests. Please note: Weather permitting, there will be an outdoor welcome reception prior to dinner.

► Professional dress

For Men:

- Suit, dress shirt and tie.
- Dress slacks, sport coat, dress shirt and tie.
- Dress shoes – rubber-soled shoes are appropriate.

For Women:

- Suit with skirt or slacks with coordinating top.
- Skirt or dress slacks with coordinating top, with or without a jacket/sweater/blazer.
- Dress with or without a jacket/sweater.
- Dress shoes – uneven pavement and stairs, so low-heeled and rubber soles appropriate.

Friday, April 24

Closing Program – Smart casual

This event is for registered participants.

Prayer Service and Commissioning – Smart casual

For registered participants and all guests, this event will include moderate walking on uneven pavement. *Remember to keep shoulders and knees covered to enter holy sites.* Please consider sun block, hats or umbrellas as needed.

Closing Lunch – Smart casual

This event is for registered participants and registered guests.





Faculty Biographies



Lori Ashmore-Ruppel,
MAPS

Lori Ashmore-Ruppel serves as senior director, mission services, management at the Catholic Health Association of the United States. Lori's responsibilities encompass advancing the department's work through research, writing and managing major departmental programs and projects. In her tenure with CHA, Lori has also served as director, sponsor services, and as a research associate. In these capacities, her focus was on the planning and facilitation of the Sponsor Formation Program for Catholic Health Care and research in the domains of ethics, mission, and formation.

Lori received her master's degree in pastoral studies from Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis and a graduate certificate in non-profit leadership and management from the University of Missouri - St. Louis. She has a bachelor's degree in human services from Fontbonne University in St. Louis.



Nathaniel Blanton Hibner,
Ph.D.

Nathaniel Blanton Hibner is director of ethics for the Catholic Health Association of the United States. In this role, he provides research and suggested implementation of the church's moral tradition for CHA member organizations in areas of clinical and organizational ethics. Together with CHA's senior director of theology and ethics, Nate creates educational and formational programming on moral theology and its relationship to current topics for the Catholic health ministry.

Prior to joining CHA in 2017, he attended the Albert Gnaegi Center for Health Care Ethics at Saint Louis University, where he researched organizational ethics, bioethics and Catholic health care ethics. He also taught an undergraduate course on Foundations in Health Care Ethics. He is currently finishing his dissertation for the joint Ph.D. in health care ethics and moral theology at Saint Louis University. He earned a bachelor's degree in political science and theology and a master's degree in theological studies from Boston College. He also has a master's degree in health care ethics from Saint Louis University.



Sr. Teresa Maya serves as senior director, theology and sponsorship at the Catholic Health Association of the United States. Prior to joining CHA, she held the role of congregational leader for the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio from 2014 to 2022. From 2016 to 2019, she served as the president of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious.

Sr. Teresa Maya, CCVI, Ph.D.

She held leadership roles with CHRISTUS Health, fostering strong relationships between sponsors and governance leaders. Originally from Mexico, she joined the Sisters of Charity and took her vows in 1998. Prior to her leadership roles, she was a principal at the congregation's schools in Mexico. Sr. Teresa holds a doctor of philosophy in history from El Colegio de Mexico, a master of arts in systematic theology from the Graduate Theological Union, and a bachelor of arts from Yale University.

As a member of the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio, Sr. Teresa has extensive experience as a teacher, history professor, administrator, leader, facilitator, and speaker. She is committed to forming ministers who aim to transform both the Church and society. Passionate about lifelong learning and the future of consecrated life, Sr. Teresa has facilitated and consulted with various religious congregations.



**Diarmuid Rooney,
M.S.Psych., M.T.S.,
D.Soc.Admin**

Diarmuid Rooney serves as vice president, sponsorship and mission services at the Catholic Health Association of the United States. In this role he serves as a spokesperson for CHA on sponsorship and mission issues, in conjunction with the president and chief executive officer, and maintains effective relationships with other national organizations and CHA members.

Prior to joining CHA in 2018, Diarmuid served for eight years as vice president, formation and communication technology, at the Ministry Leadership Center in Sacramento, California. The Ministry Leadership Center was established in 2004 to expand and enrich executive health care leaders' commitment to the Catholic tradition's mission, vision and values. His key focus was co-designing and facilitating innovative leadership formation programs that transformed leaders personally and professionally, enabling them to deliver cultural transformation for their organizations. Previously, Diarmuid was regional director of mission formation for Providence St. Joseph Health & Services in Oregon (16,000 associates).

He holds master's degrees in theology, from the Jesuit School of Theology, Santa Clara University, and in clinical psychotherapy, from the University College Dublin, School of Medicine. Diarmuid is particularly interested in how these disciplines impact the culture of spirituality in the workplace. He also holds degrees in business and social administration (University College Dublin) and philosophy and politics (University College Dublin) and is a member of Alpha Sigma Nu, The Honor Society of Jesuit Institutions of Higher Education.



Sunday, April 19

General Orientation



As we open our time of pilgrimage together, the prayer leader will guide us with an introduction and opening prayer. After watching a brief video, you will be invited to shared reflection and closing in prayer together with the following:

God of all,
We thank you and praise you for the glorious gift of your spirit in the world.
We rejoice in your call to serve in this ministry of health care.
Send us your spirit of wisdom and discernment.
Give us ears to hear and eyes to see you in our ministry and time together.
Give us humility to name where we fall short of your glory.
Be with us, and fill us with joy as we extend our hands in love.
Let our light shine in the name of your son,
Jesus, our brother in healing.

AMEN.



To access Shared Statement of Identity video, utilize this QR code.



Resources

Pacro Dei Principi Grand Hotel and Spa, Rome



**Via Gerolamo Frescobaldi, 5
Rome, 00189 Italy
Phone: 39-06-854421**

- Check in: 3:00 p.m.
- Check out: 10:00 a.m.

Key Amenities

- High-speed internet access
 - Guest rooms: free wifi
 - Lobby and public areas: wireless
 - Meeting rooms: wireless, wired
- Fitness center
- Outdoor Pool, Mon-Thu €30 per person/day, Fri-Sun €48 per person/day
- Prince Spa with indoor pool

Property Details

- Seven floors, 162 rooms,
- Eighteen meeting rooms

Hotel Services and Amenities

- All public areas nonsmoking
- Car rental nearby
- Concierge desk
- Evening turndown service
- Foreign exchange nearby
- Full daily breakfast
- Housekeeping service daily
- Laundry and dry cleaning service
- Courtesy newspaper
- Room service
- Safe in room

Business Services

- Business center
- Copier
- Fax

Restaurants and Lounges

Restaurants at the Parco dei Principi:

Pauline Borghese Restaurant – *lunch and dinner*

La Pomme Bar & Lounge – *lunch*



Restaurants near the Parco dei Principi:

Mirabelle Restaurant

Carpaccio Beef Restaurant

San Marco Pizzeria

Vladimiro Restaurant

Girarrosto Fiorentino Restaurant

Girarrosto Toscano Restaurant

Piccolo Mondo Restaurant

Cesarina Restaurant

Sapori Sardi Restaurant

Ristorante Il Boncompagni

Attractions and Landmarks

- Spanish Steps
- Roman Forum and Palatine Hill
- Colosseum
- Villa Borghese Art Gallery and Garden
- Palazzo Barberini
- Saint Peter Church
- MAXXI, National Museum of 21st Century Art
- French Academy in Rome
- The Baths of Diocletian



This handout offers a listing of some places of worship in Rome you may wish to visit. Please consult their websites for information and worship schedules.

St. Patrick's Catholic American Parish in Rome

Via Boncompagni, 31
00187 Roma

<https://stpatricksamericanrome.org/>

United by Catholic faith and English language, the community at St. Patrick's celebrates and lives together the faith of Saints Peter and Paul founded in this holy city of Rome. They welcome those who come to Rome as pilgrims and tourists seeking to grow in their Catholic faith celebrated in language and ways familiar to them. They reach out to those in our city who depend on others for the compassion that leads to human dignity and opportunity. They join in ecumenical collaboration with those of other Christian traditions to know and live our gospel faith most fully.



Great Synagogue of Rome

Lungotevere Cenci 15

00186 Roma

www.romaebraica.it

The Main Synagogue is a place of worship for Roman Jews on the banks of the Tiber, near Isola Tiberina. It is a large building that supports an aluminum-coated pavilion cupola. It dates back to the early 20th century and was designed by the architects Armani and Costa.



Islamic Cultural Center of Italy - Grand Mosque of Rome

Viale Della Moschea, 85

00197 Roma

www.facebook.com/centroislamicoculturale

The Islamic Cultural Center of Italy, which oversees the Grand Mosque of Rome, remains the only Muslim entity officially recognized by the Italian Republic, granted legal status by Presidential Decree No. 712 on December 21, 1974.



Rome Baptist Church

Piazza di San Lorenzo in Lucina 35
00186 Roma

www.romebaptist.org

Founded in 1963 by the Southern Baptist Convention's Foreign Missionary Board, the Rome Baptist Church is located in a 16th-century building in a piazza just off the Via del Corso.



St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church of Scotland

Via Venti Settembre 7
00187 Rome

Halfway between the Piazza della Repubblica and Palazzo del Quirinale

www.presbyterianchurchrome.org

St Andrew's Church is a congregation of the Church of Scotland in Rome, belonging to the Church's Presbytery of Europe. The congregation began in the early 1860s with a small group of Scots and American Presbyterians who met in the neighborhood of the Spanish Steps.



St. Paul's Within the Walls

Via Napoli 58
00184 Roma

St. Paul's is on the corner of Via Nazionale and Via Napoli

www.stpaulsrome.it

St Paul's Within the Walls American Episcopal Church of Rome, built in 1873, was the first non-Roman Catholic church to be built inside the walls of Rome. It now houses a multi-ethnic, multi-cultural congregation and is home of the Joel Nafuma Refugee Center.



2025

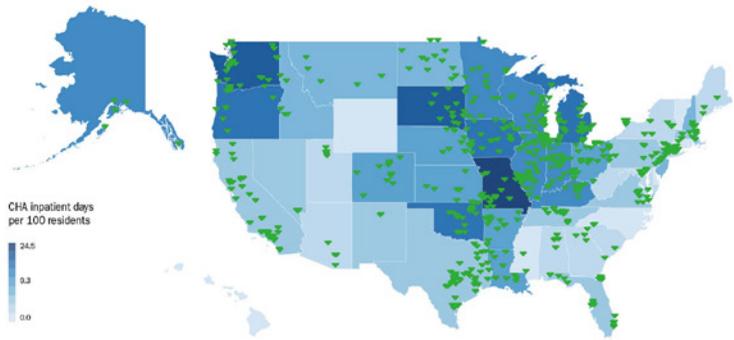
U.S. Catholic Health Care

The nation's largest group of not-for-profit health care providers

Caring for people and communities across the United States, with special attention to those who are poor, underserved and most vulnerable. By our service, we strive to transform hurt into hope.

COAST TO COAST

HOSPITAL LOCATIONS AND WHERE THEIR PATIENTS RESIDE



HOSPITALS†



74% URBAN

26% RURAL

659
HOSPITALS†

131
Critical Access
Hospitals*

229
Trauma Centers*

234
Hospitals Providing
Palliative Care*

273
Hospitals with
Obstetrics Services*

3,447
PICU/NICU beds*

290
Hospitals offering
Mental Health
Services

EVERY DAY

MORE THAN
1 IN 7
PATIENTS

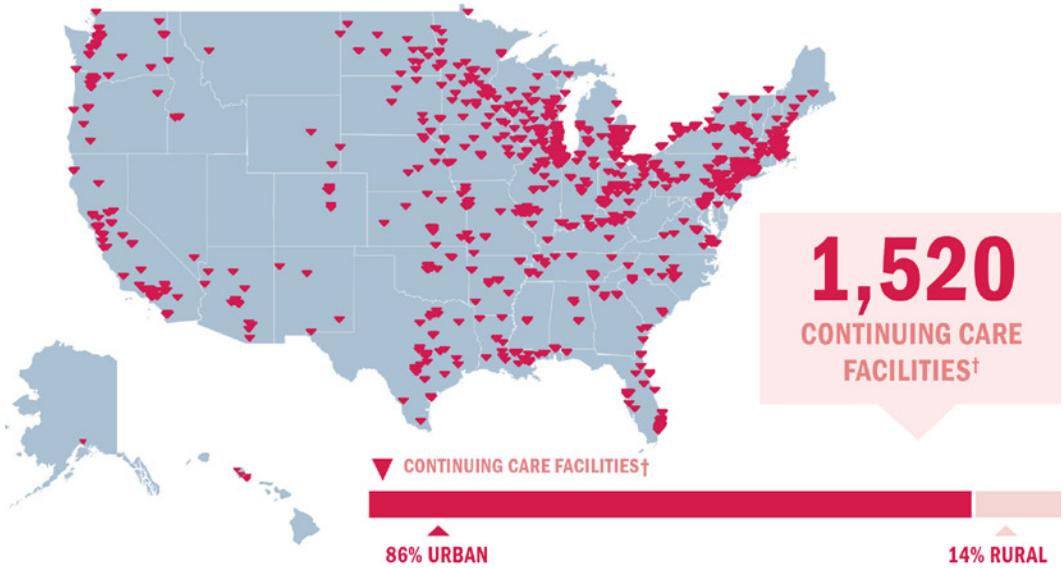
are cared for in a
Catholic hospital.*



**CATHOLIC
HOSPITAL
EMPLOYEES**

497,697
Full-Time Employees*

219,808
Part-Time Workers*



NEARLY 4.5 MILLION ADMISSIONS

to Catholic hospitals during a one-year period and 921,405 Medicaid discharges*



— Nearly —

99 MILLION
Outpatient
Visits*



— Nearly —

19 MILLION
Emergency Room
Visits*



— Nearly —

450,000 BABIES
were born in a
Catholic Hospital*



— Nearly —

76%
of Catholic Hospitals
provided at least one
Telehealth Service

*2023 AMERICAN HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL SURVEY †THE CATHOLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES



Washington Office
1625 Eye Street NW, Suite 550
Washington, DC 20006
(202) 296-3993

St. Louis Office
4455 Woodson Road
St. Louis, Missouri 63134
(314) 427-2500

CHAUSA.ORG

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Index of Common Terms

A

Apostle/Apostolic/Disciple

Literally “one sent.” Normally this refers to the 12 men chosen by Christ to be the bearers of his teachings to the world. Apostolic generally refers back to the 12 apostles. In the church it characterizes certain documents, appointments or structures initiated by the pope or the Holy See. Disciple is one who follows the teachings of Jesus.

Apostolate

The ministry or work of an apostle. In Catholic usage, a term covering all kinds and areas of work and endeavors for the service of God and the church and the good of people.

Apostolic Camera

A “chamber” or office in the Roman Curia headed by the Chamberlain (Camerlengo) of the Holy Roman Church, whose chief responsibility is the administration of the church during the interim between the death of a pope and the election of a successor. Cardinal Eduardo Martinez Somalo is currently Chamberlain of the Holy Roman Church.

Apostolic Constitution

This is a solemn, papal document with legislative authority, dealing with important matters of faith or church life affecting the whole church or a sizable part of it. An apostolic constitution was used to promulgate the revised Code of Canon Law in 1983.

Apostolic Exhortation

This is a papal document that, while not legislative in nature, promotes church teaching. Examples include exhortations issued by the pope following a synod of bishops.

Apostolic Letter

An apostolic letter is a papal letter usually sent to a particular group of persons, for example, a group of bishops, rather than to the entire church. It is not a legislative text.

Apostolic Nunciature

The offices of the Holy Father's representative or ambassador to the church in a country and then to the government in that country.

Apostolic Succession

The handing on of apostolic preaching and authority from the Apostles to the church through their successors, the bishops.

Archbishop

Title given automatically to bishops who govern archdioceses.

Archdiocese

The chief diocese of an ecclesiastical province.

Auxiliary Bishop

A bishop assigned to a Catholic diocese or archdiocese, to assist a diocesan bishop.

B**Basilica**

A church to which special privileges are attached. It is a title of honor given to various kinds of churches.

Beatification

Final step toward canonization of a saint.

Bishop

The chief priest of a diocese. Bishops are responsible for the pastoral care of their dioceses. In addition, bishops have a responsibility to act in council with other bishops to guide the church.

C**Canon Law**

The codified body of general laws governing the church.

Canon

Greek for rule, norm, standard, measure. Designates the Canon of Sacred Scripture, the list of books recognized by the church as inspired by the Holy Spirit. Also refers to individual laws with the Code of Canon Law.

Canonization

A declaration by the pope that a person who died a martyr or practiced Christian virtue to a heroic degree is in heaven and is worthy of honor and imitation by the faithful. Verification of miracles is required for canonization (except in the case of martyrs).

Cardinal

Cardinals are appointed by the pope and constitute a kind of senate of the church, and aid the pope as his chief counselors.

Catechesis

Religious instruction and formation for persons preparing for baptism (catechumens) and for the faithful in various stages of spiritual development.

Cathedral

The major church in an archdiocese or diocese. It is the seat of the local bishop.

Catholic

Greek word for universal. First used in the title Catholic Church in a letter written by St. Ignatius of Antioch to the Christians of Smyrna about 107 A.D.

Chancellor

The chief archivist of a diocese's official records. Also a notary and secretary of the diocesan curia or administrative office.

Charisms

Gifts or graces given by God to persons for the good of others and the church.

Church

The people of God spread throughout the world; the local church is that of a particular locality, such as a diocese. The church embraces all its members—on earth, in heaven, in purgatory.

Clergy

Collective term referring to male persons who have been ordained as deacons, priests or bishops.

College of Cardinals

The College of Cardinals is made up of the cardinals of the church, who advise the pope, assist in the central administration of the church, head the various curial offices and congregations, administer the Holy See during a vacancy, and elect a new pope. The term "cardinal" is Latin for "hinge," indicating the importance of this role in guiding the Universal Church.

Collegiality

The shared responsibility and authority that the whole college of bishops, headed by the pope, has for the teaching, sanctification and government of the church.

Contemplative

A religious man or woman who devotes his or her entire life in the cloister to prayer and reflection.

D

Deacon/Diaconate

The diaconate is the first order or grade in ordained ministry. Any man who is to be ordained to the priesthood must first be ordained as a transitional deacon. Deacons serve in the ministry of liturgy, of the word and of charity. The permanent diaconate is for men who do not plan to become ordained priests. The program is open to both married and unmarried men.

Dean/Vicar

The title of a priest appointed by the bishop to aid him in administering the parishes within a certain vicinity, called a “deanery.” The function of a dean involves promotion, coordination and supervision of the common pastoral activity within the deanery or vicariate.

Dicastery

A general term used to refer to the various departments that make up the Roman Curia or administrative offices of the Vatican. The term refers to the various congregations, pontifical councils, tribunals and other offices that are part of the Vatican’s administrative structure.

Diocesan Curia

The personnel and offices assisting the bishop in directing the pastoral activity, administration and exercise of judicial power of the diocese.

Diocese

A particular church; a fully organized ecclesiastical jurisdiction under the pastoral direction of a bishop as local ordinary.

E

Eastern-rite (Oriental) Church

Term used to describe the Catholic churches which developed in Eastern Europe, Asia and Africa. They have their own distinctive liturgical and organizational systems. Each is considered equal to the Latin rite within the church.

Ecclesiastical

Refers to official structures or legal and organizational aspects of the church.

Ecumenical Council

A council called by the pope of all bishops of the church. These councils are usually called to discuss specific matters of interest to the church.

Ecumenism/Interdenominational/Ecumenical Movement

A movement for spiritual understanding and unity among Christians and their churches. The term is also extended to apply to efforts toward greater understanding and cooperation between Christians and members of other faiths.

Encyclical

A pastoral letter addressed by the pope to the whole church.

Eschatology

Doctrine concerning the last things: death, judgment, heaven and hell, and the final state of perfection of the people and the Kingdom of God at the end of the world.

Exarch/Exarchy

A church jurisdiction, similar to a diocese, established for Eastern-rite Catholics living outside their native land. The head of an exarchy, usually a bishop, is an exarch.

Excommunication

A penalty of censure by which a baptized person is excluded from the Communion of the faithful for committing and remaining obstinate in certain serious offenses specified in canon law. Even though excommunicated, a person still is responsible for fulfillment of the normal obligations of a Catholic.

G**God**

The infinitely perfect Supreme Being, uncaused and absolutely self-sufficient, eternal, the creator and final end of all things. The one God subsists in three equal persons, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Grace

A free gift of God to human beings, grace is a created sharing in the life of God. It is given through the merits of Christ and is communicated by the Holy Spirit. It is necessary for salvation.

H**Hierarchy**

In general, the term refers to the ordered body of clergy, divided into bishops, priests and deacons. In Catholic practice, the term refers to the bishops of the world or of a particular region.

Holy See

The diocese of the pope, Rome. The pope himself or the various officials and bodies of the church's central administration—the Roman Curia—which act in the name and by authority of the pope.

Humanae Vitae

A 1968 encyclical by Pope Paul VI on married love and procreation.

I**IHS**

In Greek, the first three letters of the name of Jesus.

Intercommunion

The agreement or practice of two ecclesial communities by which each admits members of the other communion to its sacraments.

J

Jesus

Jesus Christ is the person called Jesus of Nazareth. Christian faithful recognized him as the incarnation of God and as the Christ, the Anointed One, who was crucified on a cross, rose from the dead and ascended into heaven. As the Son of God, he is known as the Second Person of the Trinity. The name of Jesus derives from the Aramaic and Hebrew and Yeshua and Joshua, meaning Yahweh is salvation.

Juridic Person

Roughly the equivalent of a civil law corporation, having both rights and obligations. It is established either automatically by canon law or by decree of the competent ecclesiastical authority. Its connection to the church lies in an ongoing relationship with the local bishop(s), without whose approval it cannot be considered Catholic. The most common examples of public juridic persons established by law are dioceses, religious institutes, and the Holy See. (See Code of Canon Law, cc. 113123.). A common example of public juridic persons established by decree are the ones established for health care in the United States.

K

Keys, Power of the

Spiritual authority and jurisdiction in the church, symbolized by the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Christ promised the “keys” to St. Peter as the leader of the church.

L

Laicization

The process by which an ordained man is relieved of his obligations and is returned to the status of a lay person.

Layman/Laywoman/Layperson

Any church member who is neither ordained nor a member of a religious order. When the Second Vatican Council spoke of the laity, it used the term in this more common meaning.

Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR)

Organization of major superiors who represent more than 90 percent of the active women religious in the United States.

Liturgy

The public and official prayer and rites of the church. Derived from Greek, it refers to “the work of the people.” Its aim is to bind the faithful to God, and thus, it is the communal gesture of praise and glorification of God, whose unbounded love heals the world and is offered universally.

M**Magisterium**

The official teaching office of the church.

Mass

The common name for the eucharistic liturgy of the Catholic Church. Synonyms: Eucharist, celebration of the liturgy, Eucharistic celebration, sacrifice of the Mass, Lord’s Supper.

Metropolitan

The archbishop of an archdiocese in a province. He has limited supervisory powers and influence over the other dioceses and bishops in the province.

Military Ordinariate (Archdiocese for the Military Services, U.S.A.)

Nonterritorial diocese for American Catholics and their dependents who are in the military or affiliated with the armed forces.

Mitre

A headdress worn at some liturgical functions by bishops, abbots and, in certain cases, other ecclesiastics.

Monastery

An autonomous community house of a religious order, which may or may not be a monastic order. The term is used more specifically to refer to a community house of men or women religious in which they lead a contemplative life separate from the world.

Monsignor

An honorary ecclesiastical title granted by the pope to some diocesan priests. In the United States, the title is given to the vicar general of a diocese. In Europe, the title is also given to bishops.

N**Newman Apostolate**

An apostolate to the community of college and university Catholics, now commonly known as “campus ministry.”

O

Ordain/Ordination

The proper terms in Catholic usage for references to the conferral of the sacrament of holy orders on a deacon, priest or bishop.

Order/Congregation/Society

Religious order is a title loosely applied to all religious groups of men and women. A society is a body of clerics, regular or secular, organized for the purpose of performing an apostolic work. Congregation is any group bound together by common rules.

Ordinary

Diocesan bishops, religious superiors and certain other diocesan authorities with jurisdiction over the clergy in a specific geographical area, or the members of a religious order.

P

Papal Infallibility

The end result of divine assistance given to the pope, wherefore he is prevented from the possibility and liability of error in teachings on faith or morals.

Papal Representatives

The three types of representatives of the Roman Pontiff are:

1. Legate - An individual appointed by the pope to be his personal representative to a nation, international conference or local church. The legate may be chosen from the local clergy of a country.
2. Apostolic Pro-Nuncio - In the United States, the papal representative is sent by the pope to both the local church and to the government. Although he holds the title of ambassador, in U.S. law he is not accorded the special privilege of being the dean of the diplomatic corps. In countries where he is dean of the diplomatic corps, his title is Apostolic Nuncio.
3. Permanent Observer to the United Nations - The Apostolic See maintains permanent legates below the ambassadorial level to several world organizations. Since the papal legate does not enjoy the right to vote within the organization, his title at the United Nations is that of Observer.

Parish

A specific community of the Christian faithful within a diocese, which has its own church building and is under the authority of a pastor who is responsible for providing them with ministerial service. Most parishes are formed on a geographic basis, but they may be formed along national or ethnic lines.

Pontiff/Pontifical

In the pre-Christian Roman Empire, “pontiff” referred to a high priest. The title was later used to refer to the bishop of Rome, the pope. The term may be rooted in the Latin for “bridge builder.” Pontifical has to do with the pope.

Presbyteral Council

Also known as the priests’ council, this is the principal consultative body mandated by the Code of Canon Law to advise the diocesan bishop in matters of pastoral governance. It consists of bishops and priests serving the diocese.

Primacy

Papal primacy refers to the pope’s authority over the whole church.

Province

A territory comprising of one archdiocese, called the metropolitan see, and one or more dioceses called suffragan sees. The head of an archdiocese, an archbishop, has metropolitan rights and responsibilities over the province. Also a term for a division of a religious order under the jurisdiction of a provincial superior.

R**Religious Priest/Diocesan Priest**

Religious priests are professed members of a religious order or institute. Religious priests live according to the rule of their respective orders. In pastoral ministry, they are under the jurisdiction of their local bishop, as well as the superiors of their order. Diocesan priests are under the direction of their local bishop. They commit to service within their local diocese.

Roman Curia

The official collective name for the administrative agencies and courts, and their officials, who assist the pope in governing the church. Members are appointed and granted authority by the pope.

Rome, Diocese of

The City of Rome is the diocese of the pope, as the bishop of Rome.

S**Sacrament**

An outward sign instituted by Christ to give grace.

Second Vatican Council

A major meeting of the bishops of the world convened by Pope John XXIII to bring about a renewal of the church for the second half of the 20th century. It ran from 1962 to 1965 and produced important documents in liturgy, ecumenism and communications among other areas. It is the most recent example of an ecumenical council.

Secular Institutes

Societies of men and women living in the world who dedicate themselves to observe the evangelical counsels and to carry on apostolic works suitable to their talents and opportunities in everyday life.

See

Another name for diocese or archdiocese. The Diocese of Rome is often referred to as the Holy See, the seat of the bishop of Rome.

Shrine

Erected to encourage private devotions to a saint, it usually contains a picture, statue or other religious feature capable of inspiring devotions.

Sponsorship

Sponsorship is a structured relationship through which the sponsor, in the name of the church, directs and influences a ministry that meets an apostolic need and furthers the mission of Jesus.

Superior

The head of a religious order or congregation. He or she may be the head of a province or an individual house.

Synod

A gathering of designated officials and representatives of a church, with legislative and policymaking powers.

T**Theologate**

An institution which provides the last four years of study for candidates for priesthood.

Theology

The study of God and religion, deriving from and based on the data of divine revelation, organized and systematized according to some kind of scientific method.

Titular Sees

Dioceses where the church once flourished but which later died out. Bishops without a territorial or residential diocese of their own, e.g., auxiliary bishops, are given titular sees.

Tribunal

A tribunal (court) is the name given to the person or persons who exercise the church's judicial powers.

U

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)

Episcopal conference of U.S. bishops. The membership is comprised of diocesan bishops and their auxiliary bishops. The conference decides matters of ecclesiastical law and issues policy statements on political and social issues.

V

Vatican Congregation

A Vatican body which is responsible for an important area in the life of the church, such as worship and sacraments, the clergy, and saints' causes.

W

Witness, Christian

Practical testimony or evidence given by Christians of their faith in all circumstances of life – by prayer and general conduct, through good example and good works, etc., being and acting in accordance with Christian belief, and actual practice of the Christian faith.

Z

Zucchetto

Skull cap worn by the pope (white), bishops (purple) and Cardinals (red).

*The Glossary of Terms is excerpted from the USCCB website
<http://www.nccbuscc.org/comm/catholic-church-statistics.html>*

Participant



Naveen Agarwal



Carole Ancil-Michalyszyn



Christopher Boychuk



Carol Campbell



Scott Cihak

Guest



Jessica Agarwal



Perrin Michalyszyn



Daryl Boychuk



Maria Cihak

Participant



Will Condon



Eduardo Conrado



Polly Davenport



John Deardorff



Joyce Dombrowski

Guest



Caroline Conrado



Karen Deardorff



Richard Dombrowski

Participant



Jon Fishpaw



Charles Goldwait



Beau Higginbotham



Orest Holubec



Michelle James

Guest



Michelle Fishpaw



Christopher LeBouef



Noel James

Participant



Nancy Jordan



Scott Kashman



Mary Beth Kingston



Rebecca Lenz



James Liebenberg

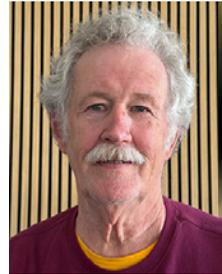
Guest



Robert Jordan



Jennifer Kashman



Joseph Kingston



Marianne Liebenberg

Participant



Mike Lutes

Guest



Tammy Lutes

Participant



Rachel Raymond

Guest



Josh Raymond



Colette Miller



Stacey Helfrich



Kendall Sawa



Lauralynn Sawa



Corey Miller



Tanya Miller



Hon. Tyler Shandro



Andrea Shandro



Julie Minda



Mark Minda



Jason Siegert



Melissa Siegert



Michael Murphy



Sandra Murphy



Greg Till



Faye Till

Participant



Erik Wexler



Stephanie Wexler



Jamie Youssef

Staff



Lori Ashmore-Ruppel



Sr. Mary Haddad, RSM



Nate Blanton Hibner



Sr. Terese Maya, CCVI



Diarmuid Rooney



Washington Office
1625 Eye Street NW, Suite 550
Washington, DC 20006
(202) 296-3993

St. Louis Office
4455 Woodson Road
St. Louis, Missouri 63134
(314) 427-2500

CHAUSA.ORG