

WHAT IS THE PERSONAL ORDINARIATE OF THE CHAIR OF ST. PETER?

ABOUT

The Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter is equivalent to a diocese for Roman Catholics who were nurtured in the Anglican tradition. The Ordinariate was created by the Vatican on Jan. 1, 2012.

Members of the Ordinariate are fully Roman Catholic, while retaining elements of Anglican heritage in their celebration of Mass and in the hospitality and ministries of their Catholic parishes.

WHY THE ORDINARIATE WAS CREATED

The establishment of the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter was the Vatican's pastoral response to repeated and persistent inquiries made by Anglican individuals and groups in the United States and Canada who, over time, have come to identify the Catholic Church as their home.

Those joining the Ordinariate have discerned they are truly Catholic in what they believe and desire full membership in the Catholic Church.



IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA



Based in Houston, Texas, the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter has more than 40 Roman Catholic parishes and communities across the U.S. and Canada.

- 1 Bishop-elect
- 1 Ordinary Emeritus
- 62 Priests
- 6 Deacons
- 4 Candidates for Priesthood or the Diaconate
- 1 Seminarian
- 42 Parishes & Communities

MISSION



The Ordinariate exists for those who are and who will be coming into full communion with the Catholic Church. Through the reverence and beauty of our worship, the study of Sacred Scripture and charity for those in need, we desire to share the joy of being Roman Catholic!

We wish to build bridges with all our brothers and sisters who are drawn to the Catholic Church, so that we might build up the one Body of Christ.

INSTRUMENTS OF CHRISTIAN UNITY



In the Second Vatican Council's Decree on Ecumenism (*Unitatis redintegratio*), the Catholic Church specified what it would look like to bring all Christians together into communion. The Council said Christian groups would bring their own distinctive traditions to the Catholic Church; they would not be suppressed or absorbed. The

Vatican's generous expression of care in establishing the Ordinariates affirms the Catholic Church's vision for Christian unity, in which diverse expressions of one faith are joined together in the Church.

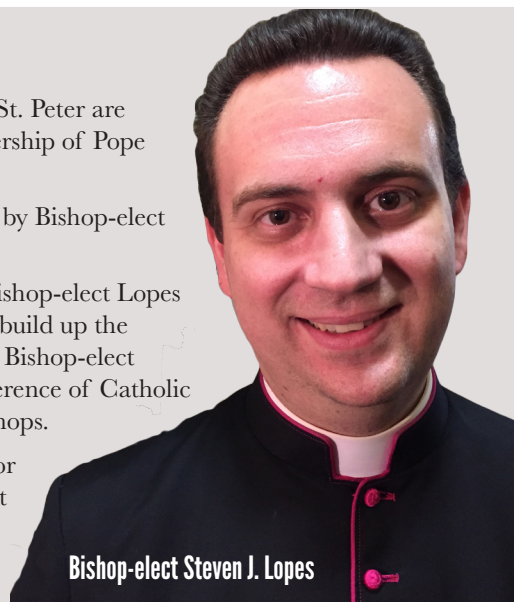
OUR LEADER

Members of the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter are united with the entire Catholic Church under the leadership of Pope Francis.

As of Nov. 24, 2015, the Ordinariate is particularly led by Bishop-elect Steven J. Lopes.

Like other bishops in the United States and Canada, Bishop-elect Lopes serves under the direct authority of the Holy Father to build up the Catholic Church through mutual mission and ministry. Bishop-elect Lopes will be a full member of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Monsignor Jeffrey N. Steenson was the first Ordinary (or head) of the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of Saint Peter; he led the Ordinariate until his retirement in November 2015.



Bishop-elect Steven J. Lopes



IT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT, THE PRINCIPLE OF UNITY, WHICH ESTABLISHES THE CHURCH AS A COMMUNION.

The apostolic constitution, *Anglicanorum coetibus* authorized the creation of Personal Ordinariates: communities that are fully Roman Catholic yet retain elements of Anglican heritage and liturgical practice.

AROUND THE GLOBE

There are three Personal Ordinariates in the world: Our Lady of Walsingham in the United Kingdom; the Chair of Saint Peter in the United States and Canada; and Our Lady of the Southern Cross in Australia.



OUR CLERGY

The Ordinariate's priests and deacons are clergy who were ordained after an extensive formation process in the Catholic Church.



This process requires: a background check; the approval of the Ordinariate and the Vatican; the completion of an approved formation program; and an examination.

Celibacy is the norm for clergy. Permission has been given on a case-by-case basis by the Pope for former Anglican priests who are married to be ordained Catholic priests for the Ordinariate.

If widowed, they may not remarry.

OUR MEMBERS

Those who join the Ordinariate desire full communion with the Catholic Church because of their belief in Her teachings and authority.

Lay people who are not yet Catholic and who wish to join the Ordinariate are required to undergo a period of preparation; apply in writing to join the Ordinariate; and to be confirmed as Catholics — just as others entering the Church do. The formation process currently includes study of the United States Catholic Catechism for Adults.

Former Anglicans and Methodists who have already become Catholic and wish to join the Ordinariate may submit an application form to the Ordinariate.



BEST KNOWN

Beloved sources of inspiration for the Ordinariate include:

Blessed John Henry Newman, the renowned theologian who converted to Catholicism after coming to believe the Roman Catholic Church was in closest continuity to the church established by Jesus.

Father Paul Watson, founder of the Society of Atonement, the first religious community of Christians to be received corporately into the Roman Catholic Church since the Reformation.

Our Lady of Walsingham, who instructed a noble widow to build a replica of Nazareth in Walsingham, England to commemorate Mary's joy at the announcement of the Incarnation. The apparition of Mary continues to inspire new generations to encounter the joy of the Incarnation.



COMMON QUESTIONS

ARE MEMBERS OF THE ORDINARIATE ALSO PART OF A LOCAL DIOCESE?

No, they are part of the Ordinariate of the Chair of Saint Peter. However, Ordinariate communities and clergy are encouraged to have close relationships with the dioceses in which they are located and many of the priests receive faculties to assist in diocesan parishes.

CAN LIFELONG CATHOLICS JOIN AN ORDINARIATE PARISH?

Any Catholic may attend Ordinariate liturgies and functions, just as members of the Ordinariate can attend liturgies and functions at any Catholic parish. While lifelong Catholics are welcome to attend Masses in an Ordinariate parish, they would be members of a regular diocese (unless a close family member is eligible to join the Ordinariate).

If a Catholic has left the Church but is reconciled to it through an Ordinariate parish and completes his or her sacraments of initiation in an Ordinariate parish, they are eligible for membership in the Ordinariate.

Lifelong Catholics who worship with an Ordinariate community are welcome to become formal “affiliates” of the Ordinariate, and should consult with their local Ordinariate pastor about how to do so.

IS THE ORDINARIATE A SEPARATE RITE IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH?

No. The Ordinariate exists entirely within the context of the Roman Catholic Church. Its worship, while distinctive, is a form of the Roman Rite. Ordinariate parishes celebrate Mass using *Divine Worship: The Missal*, a definitive book of liturgical texts promulgated by the Vatican in Advent 2015. This missal uses Prayer Book English — language derived from the classic books of the Anglican liturgical tradition — that is fully Catholic in content and expression.

MASSES IN THE ORDINARIATE



The mission of the Ordinariate is particularly experienced in the reverence and beauty of our worship, which features Anglican traditions of worship while conforming to Catholic doctrinal, sacramental and liturgical standards.


Through *Divine Worship: The Missal* — the liturgy that unites the Ordinariates throughout the English-speaking world — we share our distinctive commitment to praising God in the eloquence of the Anglican liturgical patrimony and Prayer Book English.


CONTACT

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 ordinariate.net/communities

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