

# 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.

## 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.

## 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
- 1 Ordinary Emeritus
- 62 Priests
- 6 Deacons
- 4 Candidates for Priesthood or the Diaconate
- 1 Seminarian
- 43 Parishes & Communities

## 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.



## 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 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.

## 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.

## 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 Steven J. Lopes, who serves under the direct authority of the Holy Father to build up the Catholic Church through mutual mission and ministry.