

# Catholic Lingo Part I

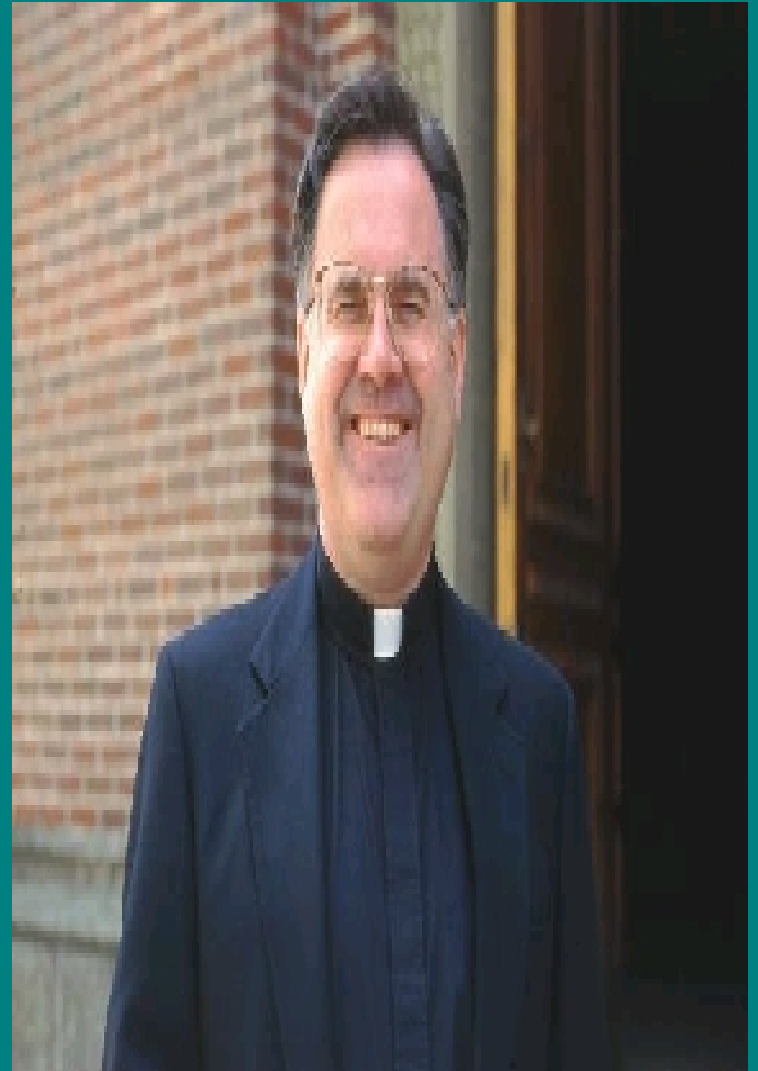
“Understanding all Things Catholic”



**Mr. Pablo Cuadra**  
**Religion Class**

# What is the meaning of the word presbyter?

- The word presbyter is titled used to denote those who form part of the order of the priesthood or presbyterate.
- The word presbyter is not commonly used by the laity except in Spanish speaking countries where priests are addressed as presbyters as a sign of respect.
- The word presbyter comes from the Greek word “presbyteros” which means elder, and is used as a synonym for priest.
- In official diocesan documents the word presbyterate is used to designate the clergy of that particular diocese.



# Did you know?

- The presbyteral council is a consultative body of priests elected to this post or designated by the bishop to this particular task. The council advises the bishop on the needs of the Diocese.
- These presbyteral councils were mandated by the reforms of Vatican II.

# Ad Limina Visit

- The obligation of bishops to visit the threshold of the Apostles Peter and Paul and to confer with the Pope in order to give account on the state of their dioceses.
- This Ad Limina Visit takes place every five years according to canon law No 399.
- In 1585 Pope Sixtus V issued the Constitution Romanus Pontifex, which set forth the norm for visits ad limina.
- On December 31, 1909, Pope Pius X stated in a Decree for the Consistorial Congregation that a bishop needs to report to the pope an account of the state of his diocese once every five years.



# Did you know?

- During the ad limina visit, the bishop is required to do the following:
- 1) Personally visit the tombs of St. Peter and Paul.  
This visit is recorded in writing.
- 2) Visit with the Holy Father.

This visit includes three elements:

A. The bishop makes a renewal of his pledge of dedication to the Holy See

B. The bishop delivers a written report on the state of his diocese, which is presented to the Secretariat of State and the Congregation for bishops

C. The Pope delivers his own address to the bishop, offering his perspective on the challenges facing the Church in that diocese.

# What is Canon Law?

- The ecclesiastical law that governs the internal affairs and policies of the Roman Catholic Church and Eastern Catholic Churches.
- The word Canon is derived from the Greek word Kanon meaning rule.
- The Roman Catholic Church has the oldest continuously functioning legal system in the Western World, predating the common and European civil law traditions.
- A codification and simplification of all the canons of the Church took place for the first time in 1917. This Code in its present and revised form was promulgated in 1983 by Pope John Paul II.



# Apostolic Nuncio

- An envoy or ambassador of the Pope and permanent diplomatic representative of the Holy See to a particular Country or state.
- Apostolic Nuncios are usually Archbishops appointed as direct liaisons between the Holy See and the Conference of Bishops of a particular country.
- Under the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, a papal nuncio is an ambassador like those from any other country.
- In Catholic Countries Apostolic Nuncios are heads of the diplomatic delegations in that country.



# Did you know?

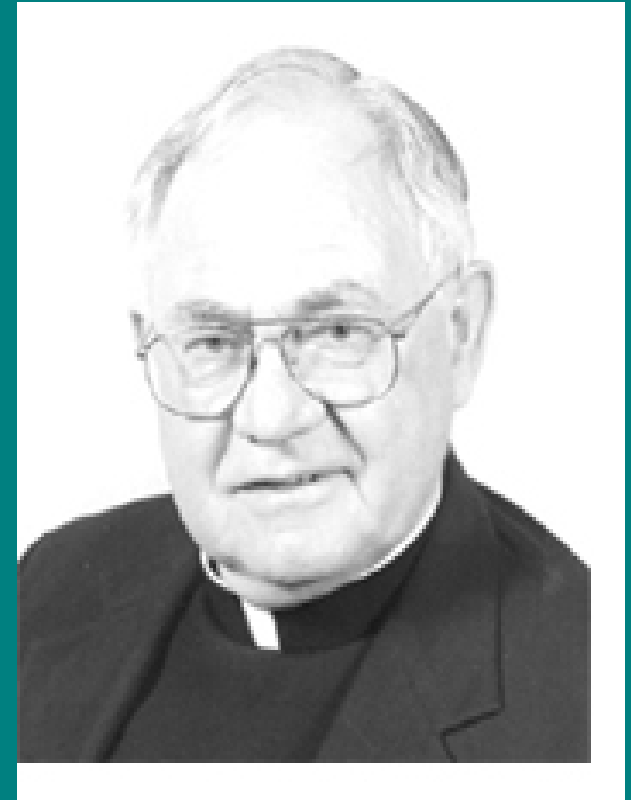
- For nations with whom the Holy See has no diplomatic ties, an Apostolic Delegate is sent to serve as a liaison with the Roman Catholic Church in that nation, though not accredited to the government of the state.
- Apostolic delegates have the same ecclesiastical rank as nuncios, but have no formal diplomatic status.
- Apostolic Nuncios play an important role in the process of selection and nomination of bishops to a particular diocese.
- Apostolic Nuncios have diplomatic immunity.





# Monsignor

- An honorific title given to a priest, the title itself means “My lord”.
- This title is usually connected to one of three honorary ecclesiastical positions.
- These positions or honors are bestowed on a priest by the Pope, these are:
  - a. **Protonotary Apostolic** (highest honor)
  - b. **Prelate of honor** (second highest honor)
  - c. **Chaplain of honor** (third highest honor)
- These distinctions are bestowed upon a priest for his service to the local Church.
- The highest honors have certain entitlements such as: a Coat of arms and ecclesiastical vestments reserved for high ranking prelates.



# Did you know?

- The title of **Papal Chamberlain** (Cameriere di spada e cappa) was one of the highest honors that could be bestowed on a Catholic layman by the Pope, and was often given to members of noble families.
- It was mostly an honorary position, but a chamberlain served the Pope for one week per year during official ceremonies.
- Alfred E. Smith the first Catholic to run for U.S president is among some of the most notorious chamberlains in the American continent.



Alfred E. Smith

# Synods or Councils

- A synod is a gathering of bishops for the purpose of discussing and deciding on matters of faith, morals or church discipline.
- The term synod is synonymous with the word council.
- There are different types of synods or councils in the church such as: Ecumenical, Plenary, Provincial, Diocesan.
- Ecumenical councils are convoked by the Pope and include the presence of all the bishops of the Church. They are binding in matters of faith.
- Plenary synod or council is the gathering of all the bishops of particular country.
- Provincial synods are the gathering of bishops of a particular province under the Metropolitan.
- Diocesan synods are the gathering of the clergy and laity convoked by the diocesan bishop or the Metropolitan bishop.

# Did you Know?

- The Synod of Bishops is a permanent institution established by Pope Paul VI, 15 September 1965, in response to the desire of the Fathers of the Second Vatican Council to keep alive the positive spirit engendered by the conciliar experience.
- The Synod of Bishops is made up of bishops elected by the the conference of bishops of a particular country to represent the bishops of that country in Rome.
- The Synod of Bishops established by Vatican II is a consultative body of bishops that collaborate and advise the Pope on issues that affect the Universal Church.
- They Synod of Bishops gather in Rome at different intervals at the request of the Pope.



# Conclave

- The word means “with Keys” referring to the fact that only those with the appropriate credentials may enter and participate .
- Only Cardinals can participate of the conclave and only those under the age of 80 can vote.
- All the voting and discussion takes place in the Sistine Chapel under extreme secrecy.
- Cardinals take an oath before the election promising not to reveal any of the discussions that take place during the conclave.
- The conclave is convoked by the Dean of the College of Cardinals.
- The conclave election will continue until a Pope is chosen.



# Did you know?

- **Black smoke** is used to inform the world that no Pope have been chosen after a voting.
- **White smoke** is used to inform the world that a Pope have been chosen by the College of Cardinals.



# Sede Vacante

- A Sede Vacante is a term used to denote the vacancy of an Episcopal see.
- This means that for a diocese the diocesan bishop has either died, resigned, transferred to a different diocese, or lost his office and a replacement has not yet been named.
- The term Sede Vacante is also used to describe the period between the death of a Pope and the election of a new Pope.



Funeral of Pope John Paul II

# Apostolic Vicar

- A bishop or priest in charge of an ecclesiastical jurisdiction or missionary territory that has not been elevated to the dignity of a diocese.





# Parochial Vicar

- The title given to an associate priest in charge of assisting the Pastor with the pastoral care of a parish.



# Vicar General

- A vicar general is the principal deputy of the bishop of a diocese for the exercise of administrative authority.
- As vicar of the bishop, the vicar general is second in command and exercises the bishop's ordinary executive power over the entire diocese.



# Rector

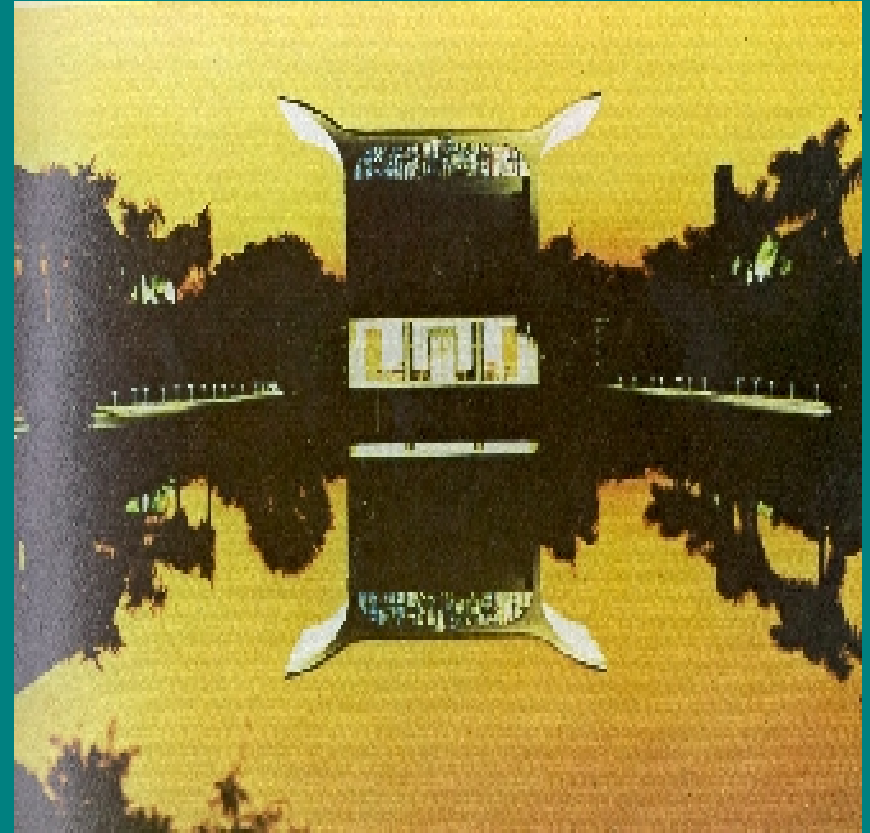
- In the Roman Catholic Church, a rector is a person who holds the office of presiding over an ecclesiastical institution.
- This institution might be a particular building—like a church or shrine—or it could also be an organization, such as a parish, a mission or quasi-parish, a seminary or house of studies, a university, a hospital, or a community of clerics or religious.



Rector Monsignor

# Seminary

- John Paul II called seminaries the schools of the Gospel. Where the seed of Gospel is planted, discernment takes place and a vocation to the priesthood is able to grow.
- Seminaries are theological colleges or graduate schools of theology and philosophy created for the purpose of training and educating the clergy.
- Seminaries are the result of the reformations brought about the Council of Trent during the Counter-Reformation.
- The concept of seminaries was later adopted by protestants and Jewish denominations.



St. John Vianney College Seminary  
Miami, Florida

# Seminarian

- A seminarian is a student training for the priesthood through a process of a studies and formation in a seminary.
- This process of formation encompasses an openness to discernment and human growth that includes the sacramental life, prayer and living in community.
- Seminarians are trained in philosophy and theology and several other disciplines related to the pastoral work of a priest.
- Seminarians receive the ministries of Lector and acolyte prior to ordination. Some undergo a pastoral year experience prior to the diaconate. The process of formation may last between 8 to 10 years.



# Did you know?

- In order for seminarians to receive candidacy or admission they must petition in writing to the local bishop to be accepted into Holy Orders.

# Prayer Before Bed

Now I lay me down to sleep,  
I pray the Lord my soul to keep.  
If I should die before I wake,  
I pray the Lord my soul to take.

child's bedtime prayer - 18th century

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