

Being the Church: *Lumen Gentium* Book Study

Session 3 Discussion Questions

Chapter III: On the Hierarchical Structure of the Church and in Particular on the Episcopate

- Article 19
 - What mission did Christ give the apostles?
 - How was the group of apostles organized?
- Article 20
 - Who are the apostles' successors? What level of authority do they have?
 - What are the duties of the bishops?
 - What are the three degrees of the Sacrament of Order?
- Article 22
 - What is the relationship among the bishops and the pope?
 - Who has supreme authority in the Church?
 - What is the fullest expression of episcopal authority? Under what conditions can they exercise this authority?
- Article 23
 - What is each bishop's sphere of responsibility?
 - What are the "churches" mentioned in this section?
- Article 24: What happens if the pope does not accept the legitimacy of a particular bishop?
- Article 25
 - According to this section, what is one of the most important duties of the bishops?
 - What are Catholics required to believe and do according to this section?
 - Under what circumstances do the bishops teach infallibly?
 - Under what circumstances does the pope teach infallibly?
 - What revelation comprises the "divine deposit of faith" and what revelation does not?
- Article 26: Where does the authority to celebrate the sacraments reside?

- Article 27
 - What is the extent of a bishop's authority over his particular church? How does it relate to the authority of the pope?
 - For whose souls is a bishop responsible?
 - What is the relationship between the faithful and their bishop?
- Article 28
 - What is the relationship between priests and their bishop?
 - How is the high priesthood of Christ related to the priesthood of bishops and the priesthood of priests (presbyters)?
- Article 29
 - How does the ordination of deacons differ from that of bishops and priests?
 - Why was the permanent diaconate reinstated?