

proposes to be firmly believed by all the faithful. Continuing in that same undertaking, this Council is resolved to **declare and proclaim before all men the doctrine concerning bishops, the successors of the apostles, who together with the successor of Peter, the Vicar of Christ, the visible Head of the whole Church, govern the house of the living God.**

**NO 19.** The Lord Jesus, after praying to the Father, calling to Himself those whom He desired, appointed twelve to be with Him, and whom He would send to preach the Kingdom of God; and these apostles He formed after the manner of a college or a stable group, over which He placed Peter chosen from among them. He sent them first to the children of Israel and then to all nations, so that as sharers in His power they might make all peoples His disciples, and sanctify and govern them, and thus spread His Church, And in this mission they were fully confirmed on the day of Pentecost in accordance with the Lord's promise: "You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you shall be witnesses for me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and in Samaria, and even to the very ends of the earth".

**No 20.** They therefore appointed such men, and gave them the order that, when they should have died, other approved men would take up their ministry. Among those various ministries which, according to tradition, were exercised in the Church from the earliest times, the chief place belongs to the office of those who, appointed to the episcopate, by a succession running from the beginning, are passers-on of the apostolic seed. Thus, as St. Irenaeus testifies, through those who were appointed bishops by the apostles, and through their successors down in our own time, the apostolic tradition is manifested and preserved.

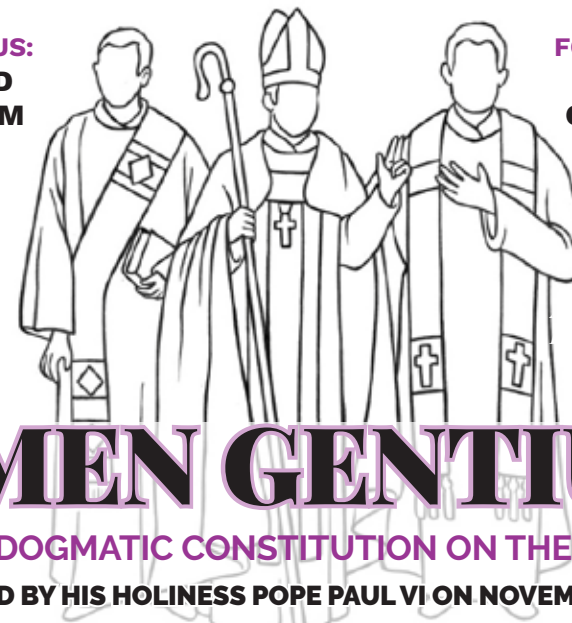
**Bishops, therefore, with their helpers, the priests and deacons, have taken up the service of the community, presiding in place of God over the flock,** (T)he apostles' office of nurturing the Church is permanent, and is to be exercised without interruption by the sacred order of bishops. (B)ishops by divine institution have succeeded to the place of the apostles, as shepherds of the Church, and he who hears them, hears Christ, and he who rejects them, rejects Christ and Him who sent Christ. ✠



**SALT OF THE EARTH AND LIGHT OF THE WORLD:  
COMMUNION (INCLUSIVE), PARTICIPATION (CREATIVE) & MISSION (BRIDGE BUILDING)**

**MONTHLY FOCUS:  
CHURCH AND  
VOLUNTARISM**

**FOCUS EVENT:  
ADVENT &  
CHRISTMAS  
SEASON**



# LUMEN GENTIUM

**Vatican II DOGMATIC CONSTITUTION ON THE CHURCH  
PROMULGATED BY HIS HOLINESS POPE PAUL VI ON NOVEMBER 21, 1964**

**ABOUT THE POPE, BISHOPS, PRIESTS  
AND DEACONS IN THE CHURCH**

**NO 18.** For the nurturing and constant growth of the People of God, Christ the Lord instituted in His Church a variety of ministries, which work for the good of the whole body. This Sacred Council, following closely in the footsteps of the First Vatican Council, with that Council teaches and declares that Jesus Christ, the eternal Shepherd, established His holy Church, and He willed that their successors, namely the bishops, should be shepherds in His Church even to the consummation of the world. And all this teaching about the institution, the perpetuity, the meaning and reason for the sacred primacy of the Roman Pontiff and of his infallible magisterium, this Sacred Council again