

by whose power they would be witnesses to Him before the nations and peoples and kings even to the ends of the earth. **And that duty**, which the Lord committed to the shepherds of His people, is a true service, which in sacred literature is significantly called "**diakonia**" or **ministry**.

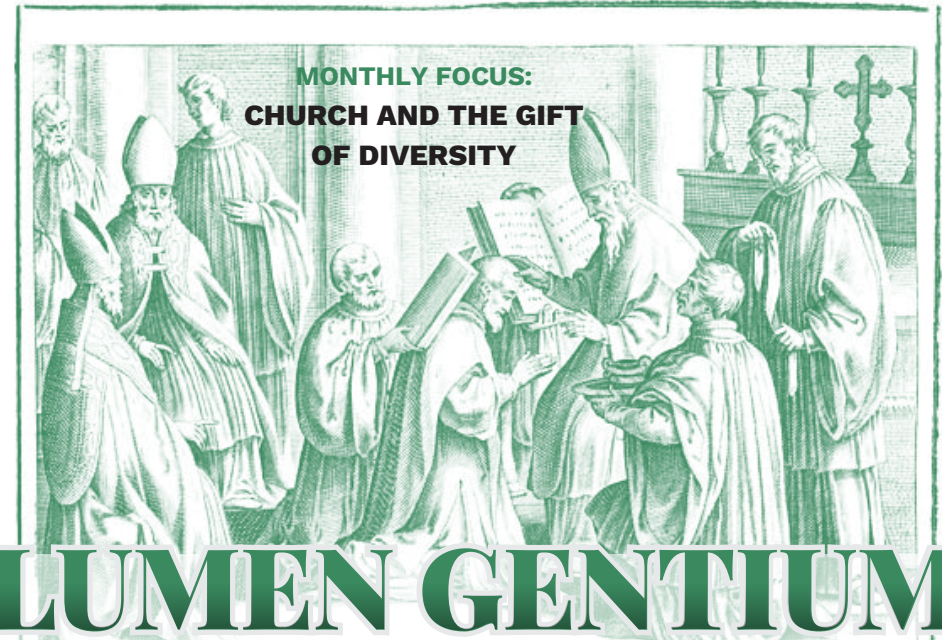
**No 25. Among the principal duties of bishops the preaching of the Gospel occupies an eminent place.** For bishops are preachers of the faith, who lead new disciples to Christ, and they are authentic teachers, that is, teachers endowed with the authority of Christ, who preach to the people committed to them the faith they must believe and put into practice, and by the light of the Holy Spirit illustrate that faith. In matters of faith and morals, the bishops speak in the name of Christ and the faithful are to accept their teaching and adhere to it with a religious assent. This religious submission of mind and will must be shown in a special way to the authentic magisterium of the Roman Pontiff, even when he is not speaking *ex cathedra*; that is, it must be shown in such a way that his supreme magisterium is acknowledged with reverence, the judgments made by him are sincerely adhered to, according to his manifest mind and will. His mind and will in the matter may be known either from the character of the documents, from his frequent repetition of the same doctrine, or from his manner of speaking.

Although the individual bishops do not enjoy the prerogative of infallibility, they nevertheless proclaim Christ's doctrine infallibly whenever, even though dispersed through the world, but still maintaining the bond of communion among themselves and with the successor of Peter, and authentically teaching matters of faith and morals, they are in agreement on one position as definitively to be held.

And this infallibility with which the Divine Redeemer willed His Church to be endowed in defining doctrine of faith and morals, extends as far as the deposit of Revelation extends, which must be religiously guarded and faithfully expounded. And this is the infallibility which the Roman Pontiff, the head of the college of bishops, enjoys in virtue of his office, when, as the supreme shepherd and teacher of all the faithful, who confirms his brethren in their faith, by a definitive act he proclaims a doctrine of faith or morals. ❖

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SALT OF THE EARTH AND LIGHT OF THE WORLD:  
CELEBRATING, LISTENING AND WALKING TOGETHER IN A SPIRIT OF COMMUNION  
PARTICIPATION AND MISSION. (Mk 15 : 16)



MONTHLY FOCUS:  
**CHURCH AND THE GIFT  
OF DIVERSITY**

## LUMEN GENTIUM

**Vatican II DOGMATIC CONSTITUTION  
ON THE CHURCH**

**PROMULGATED BY HIS HOLINESS POPE PAUL VI ON NOVEMBER 21, 1964**

**The Role and Function of a Bishop (cont'd)**

**No 24 Bishops, as successors of the apostles, receive from the Lord**, to whom was given all power in heaven and on earth, the mission **to teach** all nations and to preach the Gospel to every creature, so that all men may attain to salvation by faith, baptism and the fulfillment of the commandments. **To fulfill this mission, Christ the Lord promised the Holy Spirit to the Apostles**, and on Pentecost day sent the Spirit from heaven,