

Christian Unity

Pray that all Christians may come together as one Church.



Before Jesus went to heaven, he chose someone on earth to take care of the Church and the new Christians. This man's name was Peter, and he was one of Jesus' friends. Peter's name means **rock**, and Jesus chose him so he would be a strong person, like a rock, who would help the Church be strong and grow. When Peter was chosen for this important job he became the first pope.

Since Peter, over 260 men have been pope. The Catholic Church teaches that each new pope carries on St. Peter's job - to take care of the Church and the Christians of the world.

Some people, at different times in history, have disagreed with what the pope and the Church are teaching. Many of those people have left the Catholic Church and started their own churches. These churches follow different rules and believe different things than Catholics.

Jesus asked Peter to take care of the Church, and now it's Pope Benedict's job. It makes Pope Benedict sad that people disagree with each other, and he knows that the only way we can all come together is with the help of God. He's asking us to pray this month that people learn to agree and that they understand we all believe in the same Jesus. Maybe, with our prayers and with God's help, we can all be one Church soon.

Think about it!

- Who did Jesus pick to lead the Church?
- What is the pope's job?
- How can we come together as Christians?

St. Peter, the First Pope



**"You are Peter, and upon this rock
I will build my church."**