

Saints, The Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, The Congregation for the Clergy, The Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, The Congregation for Catholic Education (Institutes of Study), The Congregation for Bishops);

- Three Tribunals (The Apostolic Penitentiary, The Tribunal of the Rota Romana, The Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura);
- Eight pontifical commissions (The Pontifical Commission for the Cultural Heritage of the Church, The Pontifical Commission *Ecclesia Dei*, The Pontifical Commission for Sacred Archaeology, The Pontifical Biblical Commission, The International Theological Commission, Interdicasterial Commissions, The Pontifical Commission for Latin America, The Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors)
- The Swiss Guard and
- The Labour office of the Apostolic See.

9. Whilst three of these bodies are named as "Tribunals", in fact, there are several other bodies that exercise judicial functions, in particular, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith which promotes the safeguarding of Catholic faith and morals, and the Congregations for the Clergy and for Bishops, each of which has a role in relation to parish priests and bishops respectively.

College of Bishops

10. The Pope is also the head of the collective of all the Bishops (the College of Bishops). The Pope's authority over the Universal Church is complemented by the authority of all the Bishops taken together. Together, they exercise jurisdiction over the Church. The Pope is not therefore able to dictate unilaterally what a Bishop may or may not do.
11. The College of Bishops does not extend to schismatic religious organisations that identify themselves as Catholic but which are not recognised by the Catholic Church and who are therefore not in communion with the Holy See.

46. I have spoken to Emeritus Bishop Howard Tripp who was Secretary to the Catholic Children's Society of Arundel and Brighton, Portsmouth and Southwark between the years of 1971-1980 who has provided me with a history of that Children's Society. This provides some helpful historical information and background context, as well as an overview of the operation of a Children's Society within a particular diocese, and I produce this document as CT/2.

Religious Orders

47. A Religious Order is a group of consecrated men and or women with a particular charism (or spiritual focus) that is reflected in their apostolic work in the church. For example, the Dominicans, who are also known as the Order of Preachers.

48. Before being recognised as a Pontifical Religious Order a group must apply to the Holy See for approval of their Constitution. The Constitution, once approved, governs the daily lives of the members of the Religious Order.

49. Each Religious Order has its own Superiors who are responsible for the administration of the Order. There may be leadership at a local level. The House Superior will be responsible for one house (i.e. a house where a religious community lives). A collective of those would be a Provincial who will have oversight of several houses. The Provinces of the Religious Orders do not correspond with the provinces (i.e. the metropolitan dioceses (as set out in paragraph 28)) and the geographical areas covered by the particular Orders will vary. Above that would be the "Generals". Generals normally live in Rome and are responsible for the Order as a whole across the world. Superiors do not have the same powers as Archbishops/bishops. They are able to pass Particular law in a General chapter (in which delegates from the whole congregation and all of the Provincials will come together, to elect a new Superior General and to look at other aspects of the charism and apostolic work).

50. All members of Religious Orders must abide by canon law. They are also bound to comply with the Particular laws of the diocese in which their community resides. In

reality, there should be no conflict between canon law, Particular law and the Constitution of a religious order.

51. The dynamic between the Archbishop/bishop and the Religious Orders operating within his diocese is not the same as that between the Archbishop/bishop and the parish priests. A Religious Order cannot operate within a particular diocese without the permission of the Archbishop/bishop. The Archbishop/bishop can request the Superior of a Religious Order to take a particular action, for example to remove a member who is acting in breach of church teaching. In the case, say of an errant superior (for example a Sister teaching heresy), the Bishop would write to the Provincial asking for a remedy who, if unable to resolve the matter, would then speak to the Superior General. If this did not bring about compliance, the matter would then be taken to the Holy See, specifically in this case, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. Other institutions within the Holy See who might receive complaints are the Congregation for the Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life (CICLSAL – which plays an equivalent role for the Orders to the Congregation of Bishops for Bishops) and the Apostolic Signatura. The ruling of the body within the Holy See would then be enacted and could, for example, lead to the removal of the faculty to teach, the removal of position, or excommunication). However, the Archbishop/bishop cannot interfere in the day-to-day running of the Religious Order.

Hierarchy and the Principle of Subsidiarity

52. The word “Hierarchy” when used in the Catholic Church refers to the bishops, however, the hierarchy within the structures of the Catholic Church is not (as is sometimes assumed) linear: authority is not delegated from the Pope, to the cardinals, to the bishops, and then to the priests. Archbishops/bishops do not derive delegated authority from the Pope, but have full, independent authority over their own dioceses, within the bounds of canon law. The Pope is the Bishop of Rome, and therefore sits alongside the other bishops, albeit that he is “the first among equals”. The relationship between bishops and parish priests is not that between a superior and a person following direction, but is advisory and collaborative (although, as also stated above, the bishop has the right to appoint and remove parish priests).