

Module 8: The Early Middle Ages

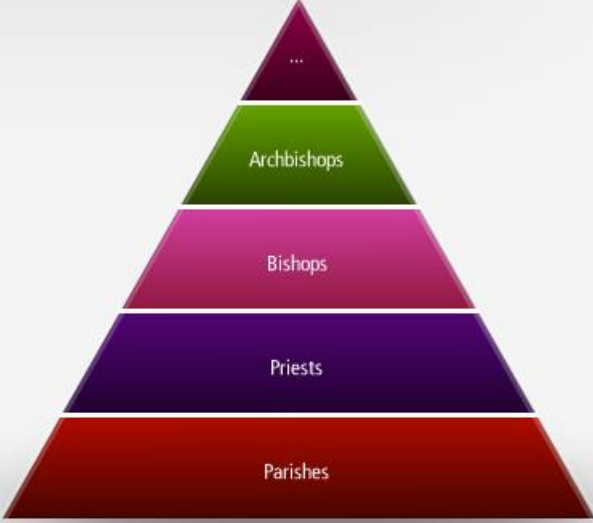
Topic 3 Content: Structure of the Roman Catholic Church

Introduction

Structure of the Roman Catholic Church in the Middle Ages

Introduction

Click on each level of the pyramid to learn more about the structure of the Roman Catholic Church during the Middle Ages.



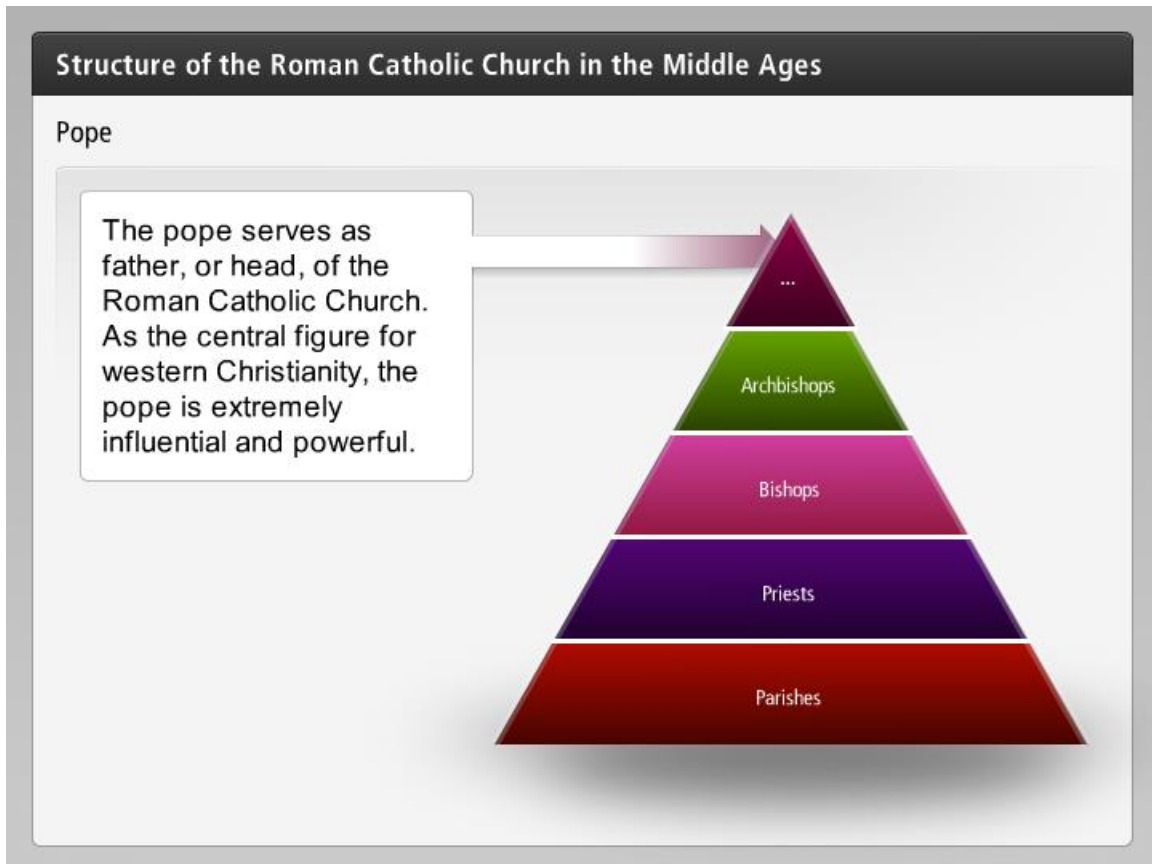
The diagram is a pyramid with five distinct levels, each representing a different level of the church hierarchy. The top level is a small dark purple triangle containing three dots (...). The second level is a green trapezoid labeled 'Archbishops'. The third level is a pink trapezoid labeled 'Bishops'. The fourth level is a purple trapezoid labeled 'Priests'. The bottom level is a red trapezoid labeled 'Parishes'.

Click on each level of the pyramid to learn more about the structure of the Roman Catholic Church during the Middle Ages.

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Topic 3 Content: Structure of the Roman Catholic Church

Pope

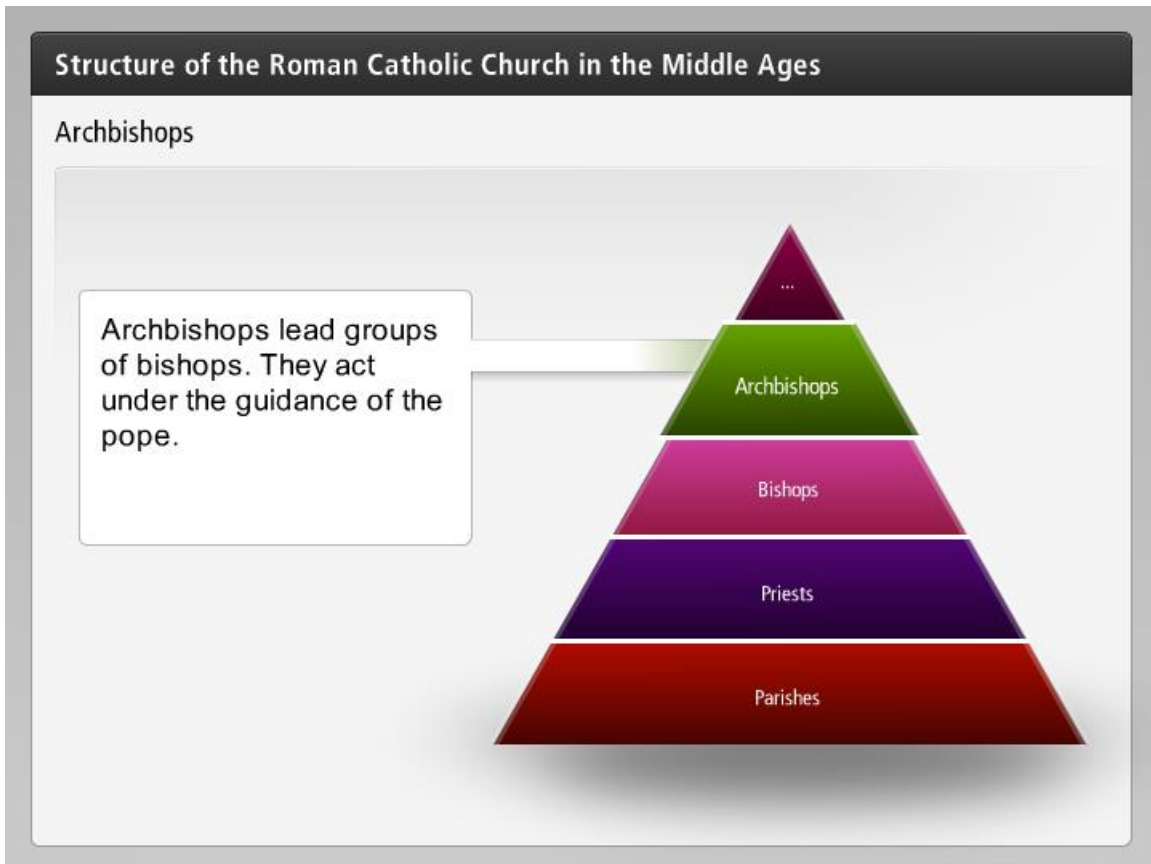


The pope serves as father, or head, of the Roman Catholic Church. As the central figure for western Christianity, the pope is extremely influential and powerful.

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Archbishops

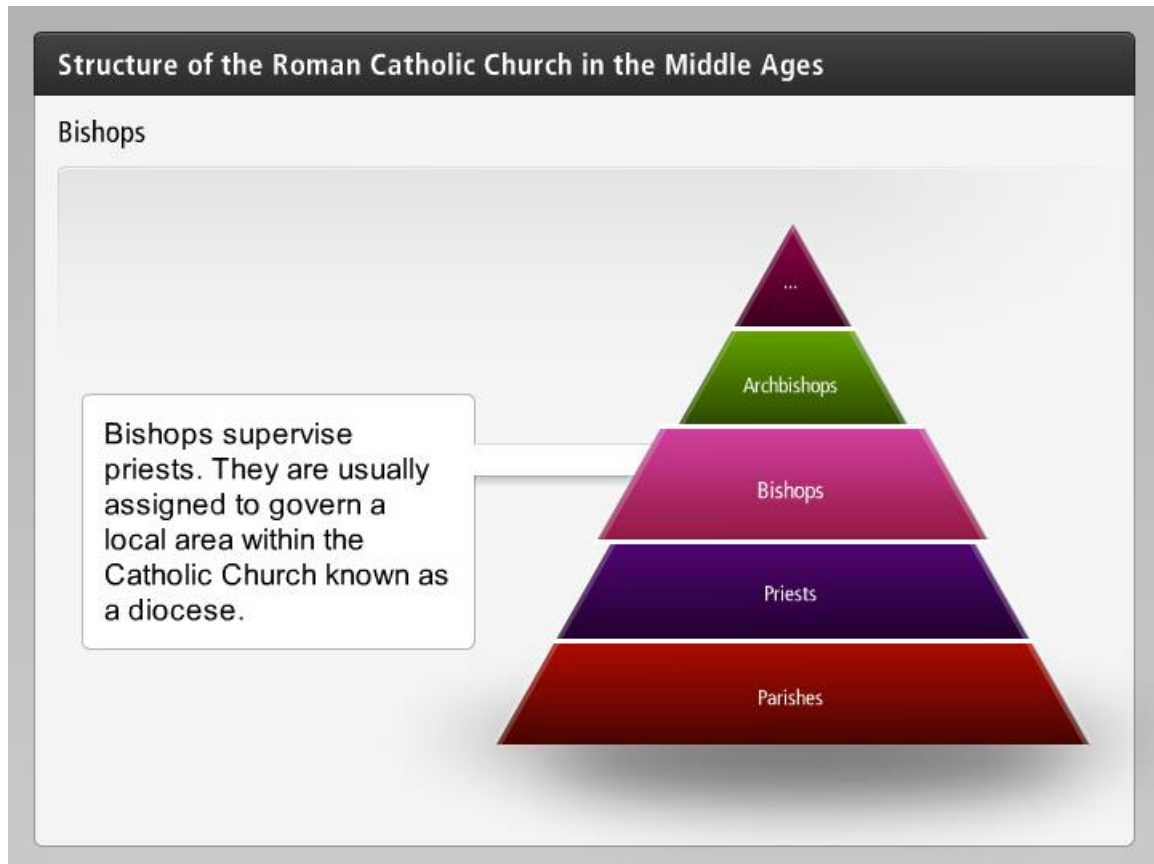


Archbishops lead groups of bishops. They act under the guidance of the pope.

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Bishops

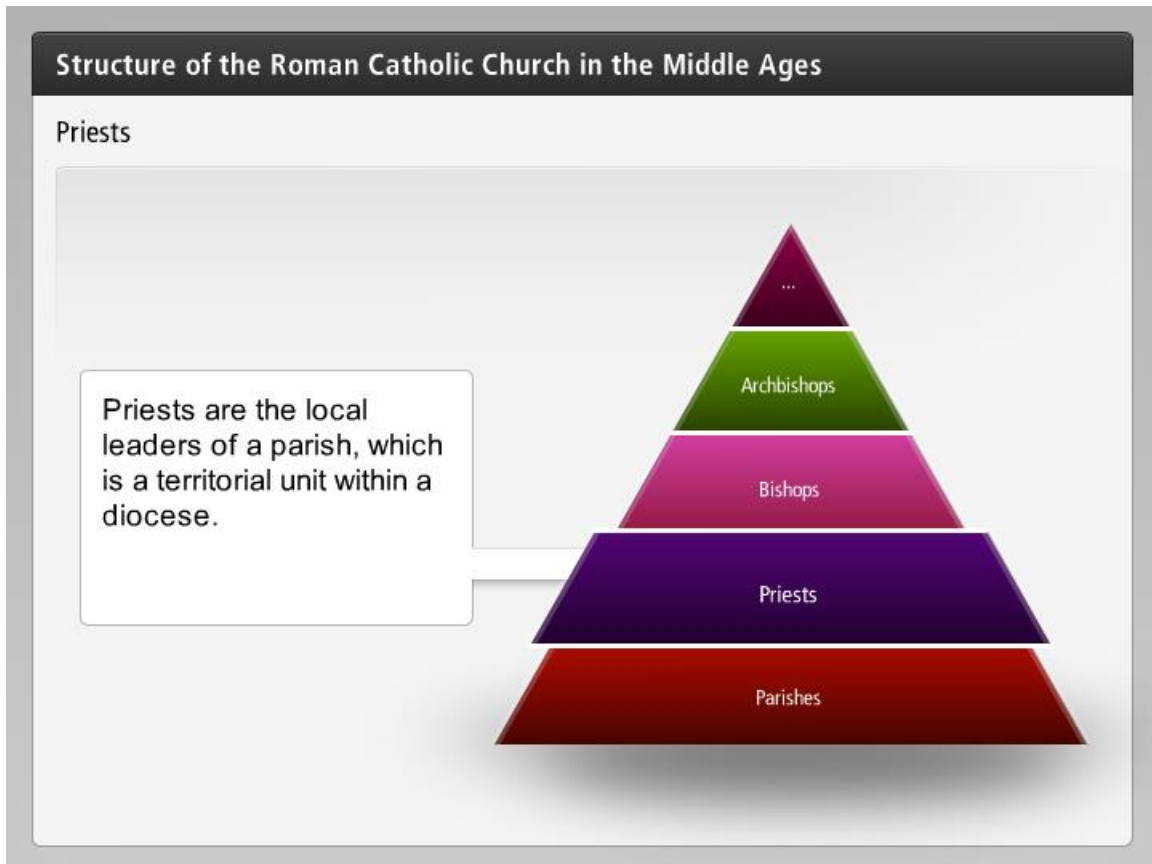


Bishops supervise priests. They are usually assigned to govern a local area within the Catholic Church known as a diocese.

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Priests

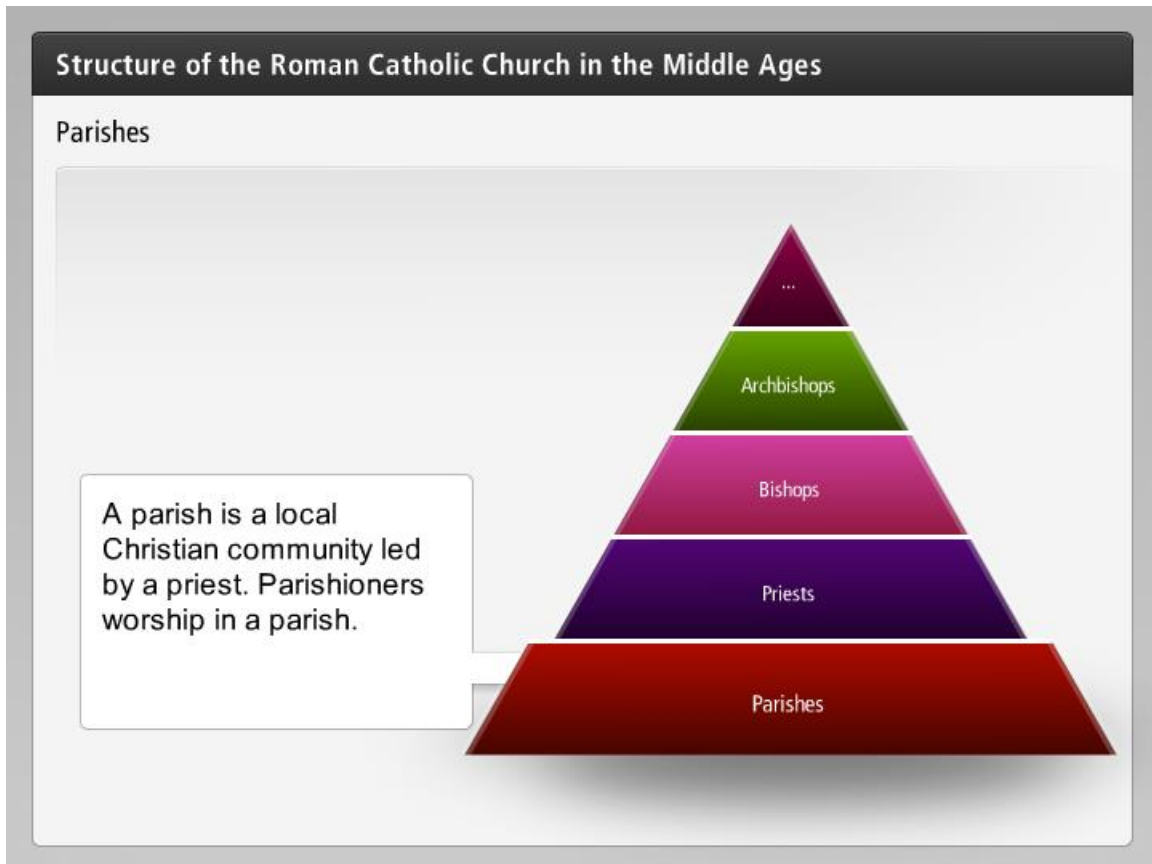


Priests are the local leaders of a parish, which is a territorial unit within a diocese.

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Parishes



A parish is a local Christian community led by a priest. Parishioners worship in a parish.