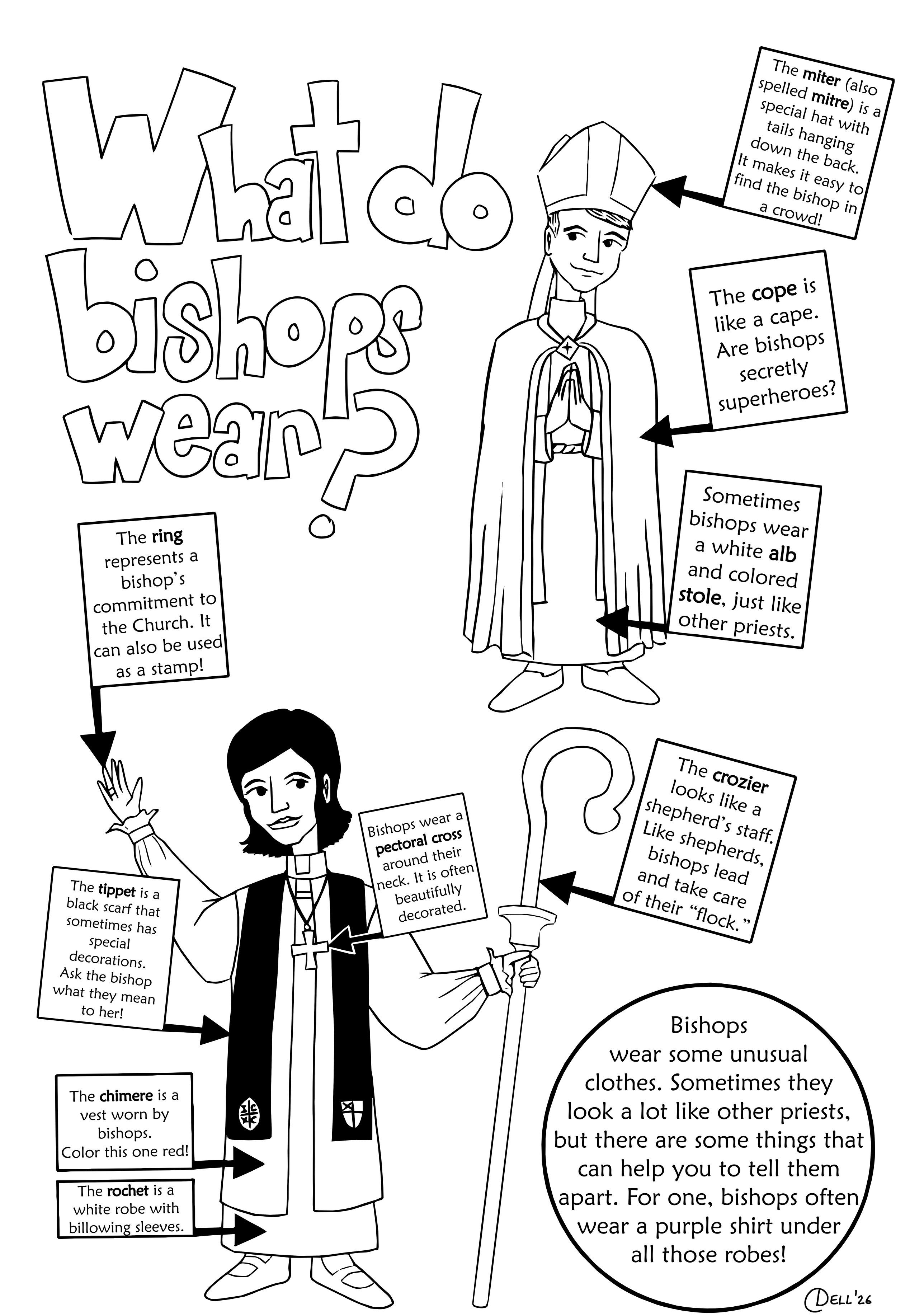
So, you're getting a New Bishop?

So, You're Getting a New Bishop?: A Guide to Understanding Bishops
In Preparation for the Ordination and Consecration of the Ninth Bishop of Florida
By the Rev. Christopher Dell and Shannon Dell

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What do bishops wear?



Bishops wear some unusual clothes. Sometimes they look a lot like other priests, but there are some things that can help you to tell them apart. For one, bishops often wear a purple shirt under all those robes!

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What do bishops do?



To-do

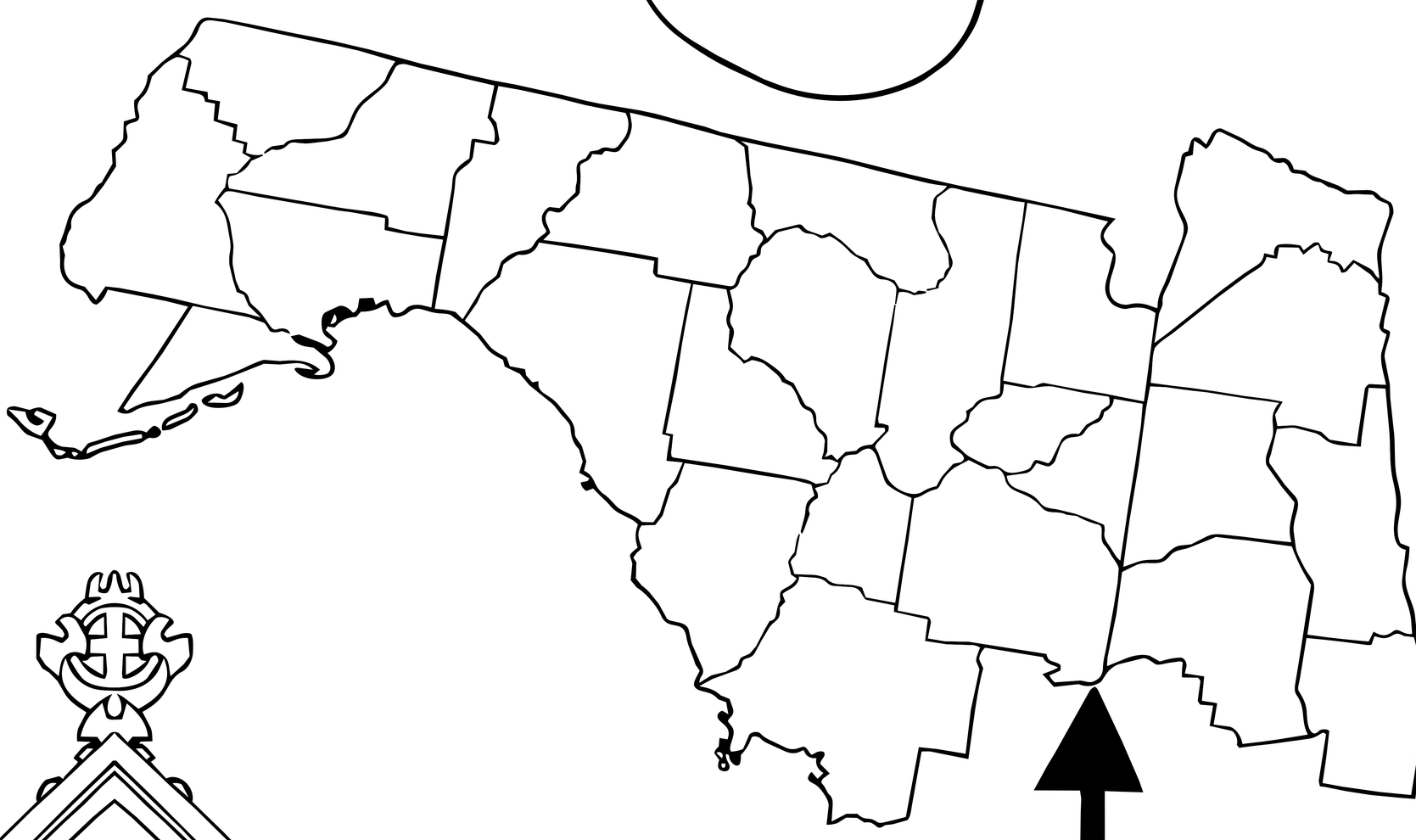
- ☐ Pray
- ☐ Visit every church in our diocese
- ☐ Ordain priests
- ☐ Ordain deacons
- ☐ Visit seminaries
- ☐ Meet with other bishops
- ☐ Meet with priests
- ☐ Prepare sermons
- ☐ Visit Camp Weed
- ☐ More meetings

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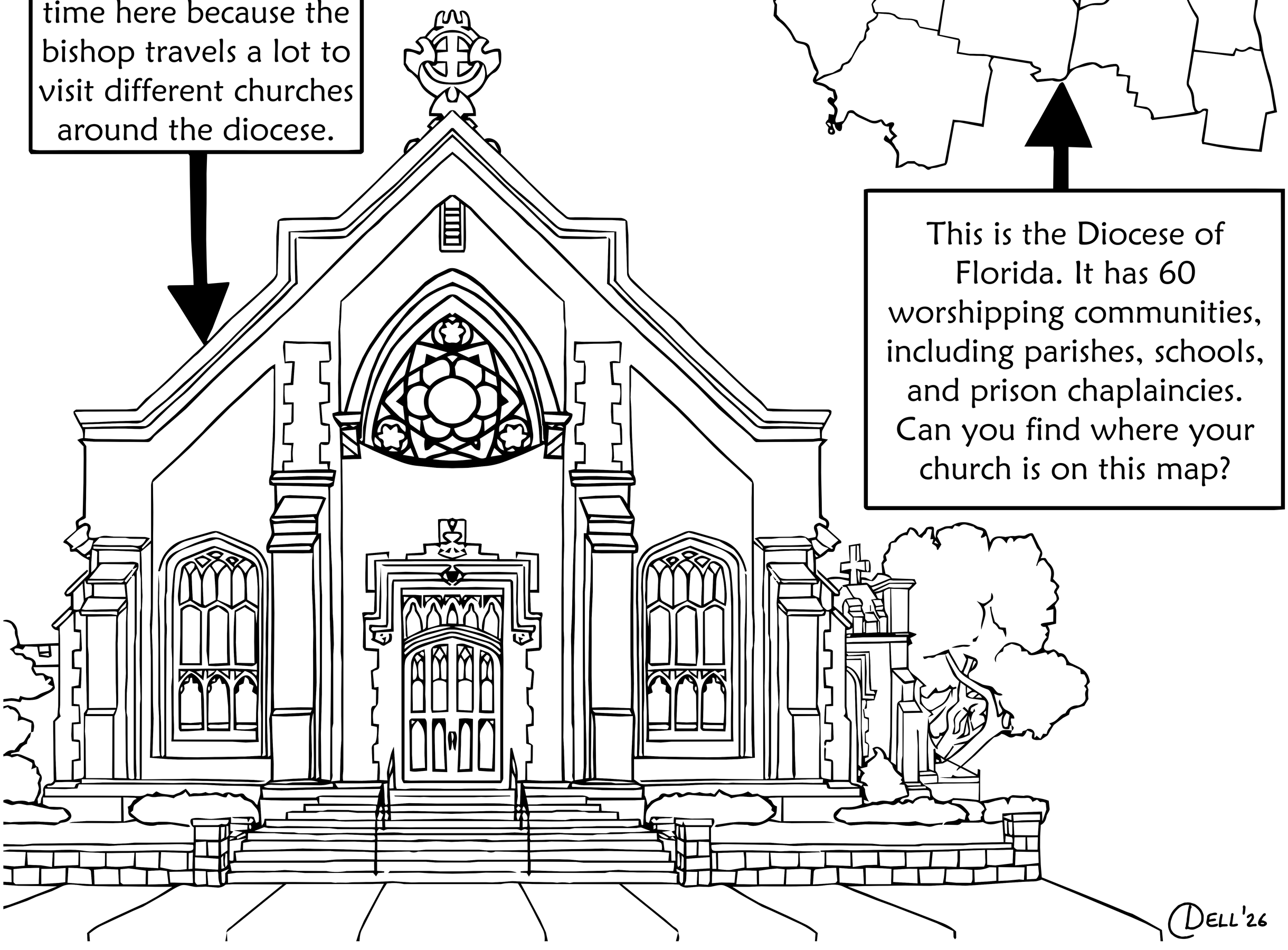
What do bishops do on Sunday?

St. John's Cathedral in Jacksonville is the "home church" of the bishop. There is even a special chair here reserved just for the bishop.

However, the bishop doesn't spend much time here because the bishop travels a lot to visit different churches around the diocese.



This is the Diocese of Florida. It has 60 worshipping communities, including parishes, schools, and prison chaplaincies. Can you find where your church is on this map?

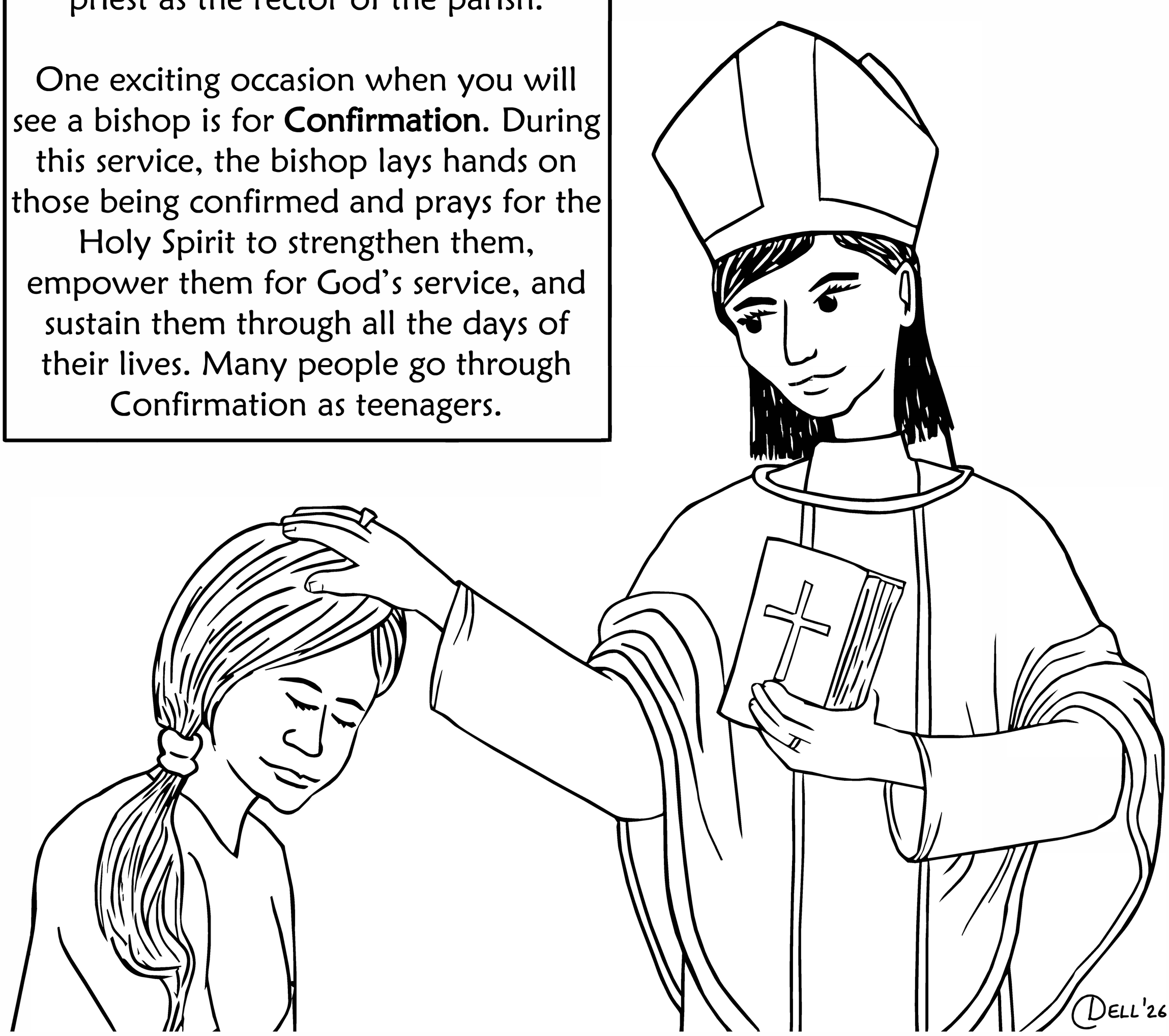


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What do bishops do on Sunday?

Bishops spend a lot of their time visiting worshipping communities around the diocese. Some special reasons they might visit your church are to ordain priests and deacons and to install a priest as the rector of the parish.

One exciting occasion when you will see a bishop is for **Confirmation**. During this service, the bishop lays hands on those being confirmed and prays for the Holy Spirit to strengthen them, empower them for God's service, and sustain them through all the days of their lives. Many people go through Confirmation as teenagers.



Who can be a bishop?





Any priest between the ages of 30 and 72 can become a bishop. Clergy in the Episcopal Church – bishops, priests, and deacons – can be any gender.

Sometimes a person becomes a bishop after serving as a priest at a church within the diocese. However, bishops can also come from all around the world to join a new diocese and make their home with us.

Connect the dashes to help these bishops get their miters. You can even decorate them with some fun patterns!





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How do they become a bishop?



The dove is a symbol of the **Holy Spirit**, who inspires us and helps us to pray.

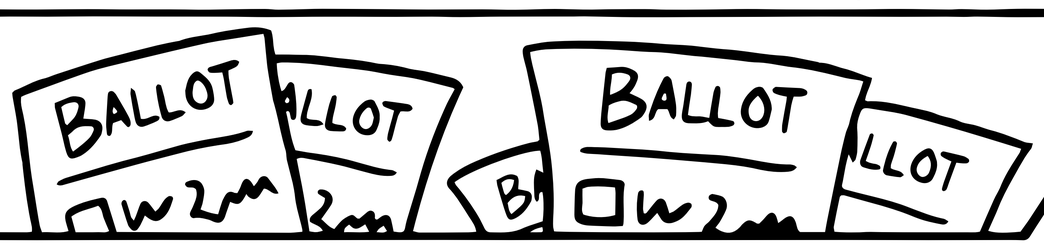


Step 1 – Prayer is the most important part of the process. When priests think about becoming a bishop, they need to spend a lot of time in prayer, thinking deeply about their beliefs; their ideas for new and exciting things God might do in our diocese; and how their talents, skills, and personalities might help God to make those things happen.

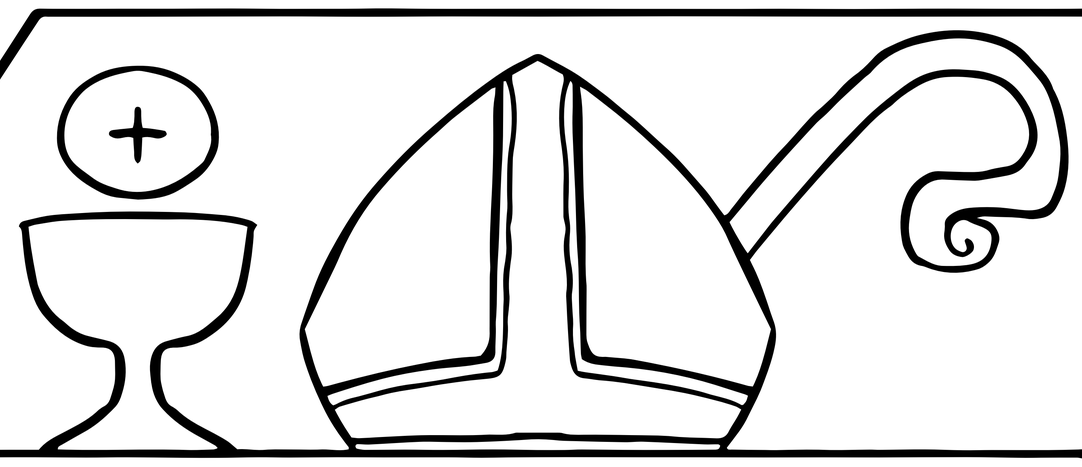
As soon as a diocese begins looking for a bishop, people around the diocese also begin praying that God will guide priests who are thinking about becoming a bishop. Your church has probably been praying a special prayer for our new bishop for months already.



Step 2 – Multiple committees, including a variety of people from around the diocese, also worked hard to prayerfully review applications from priests who might become our new bishop. They discussed, listened, prayed a lot, and gave us a list of three gifted priests to pray about and choose from.



Step 3 – On September 11, 2026, representatives from every worshipping community in the diocese prayed together and voted for the priest they thought was best to become our new bishop. And a new bishop was elected: The Reverend J. Randolph Alexander Jr.!

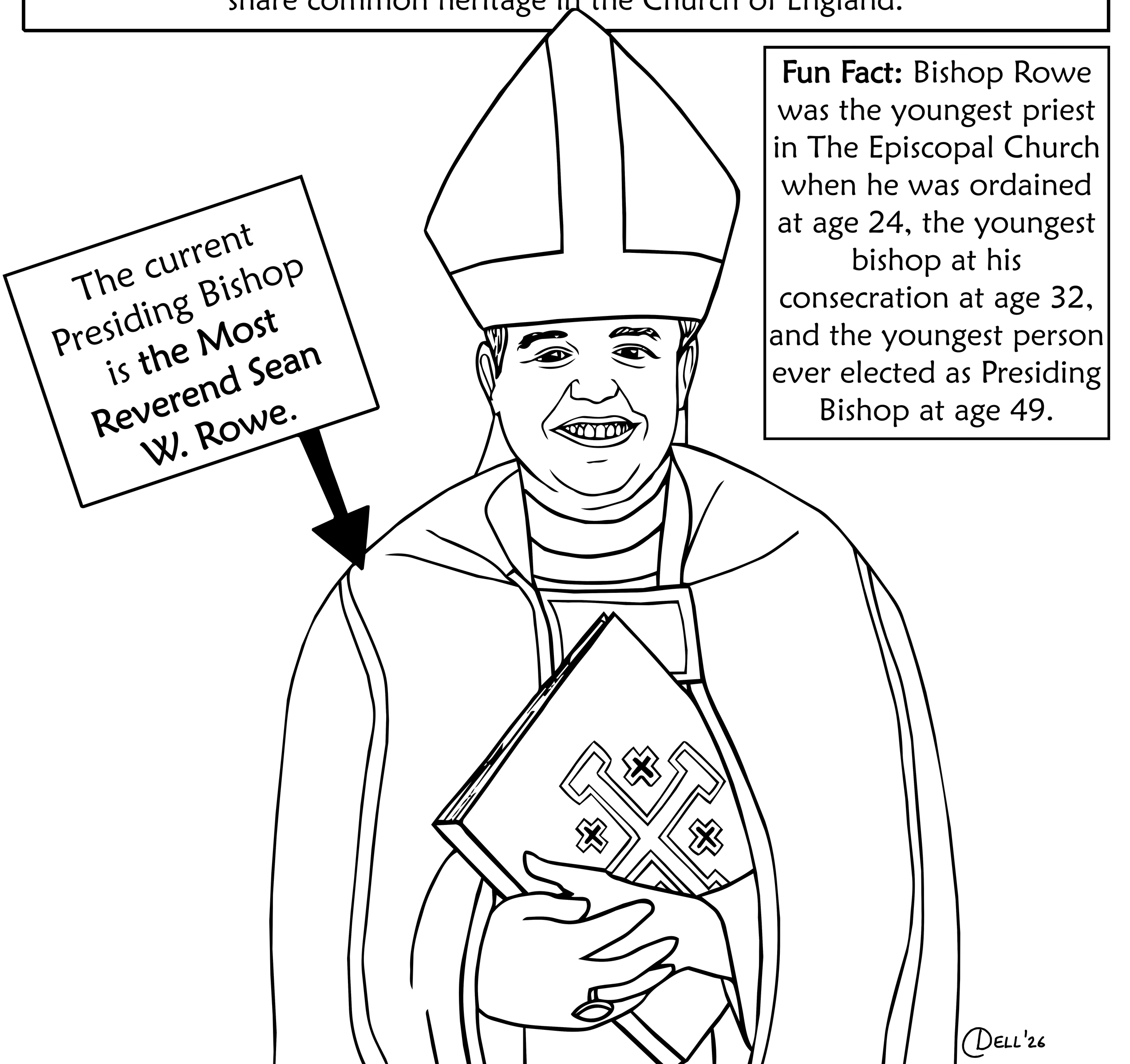


Step 4 – At a very special church service on February 6, 2027, the Presiding Bishop — with the help of two other bishops, and the prayers and support of lots of other priests, deacons, and lay persons — will ask God to make Father Alexander a bishop in God's Church. Please help us pray for our bishop on this day.

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What is the Presiding Bishop?

The **Presiding Bishop** is the bishop who oversees the entire Episcopal Church and represents The Episcopal Church in meetings with other bishops from across the Anglican Communion, which is a worldwide group of churches that share common heritage in the Church of England.



Fun Fact: Bishop Rowe was the youngest priest in The Episcopal Church when he was ordained at age 24, the youngest bishop at his consecration at age 32, and the youngest person ever elected as Presiding Bishop at age 49.

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