



Magisterium

The word magisterium is derived from the Latin *magister* meaning teacher and refers to the teaching authority of the Church. This authority may lay with a person or group of people because of their office in the Church e.g. pope or bishops. Teaching authority inherent in the office of pope and bishop is referred to as *hierarchical magisterium*.

The magisterium is also inclusive of those who contribute to the ministry of teaching in the Church through their recognized academic standing e.g. theologians.

Examples of the work of the magisterium includes Pope Francis's encyclical *Laudato Si* : On Care for Our Common Home, and the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Social Justice statements (e.g. *A Place to Call Home*: Making a Home for Everyone in our Land)