



## **People of God**

The principle of the Church as the People of God was a significant teaching of the Second Vatican Council. Through this teaching the Pope and bishops of the world recognized that Church meant more than just buildings or recognized roles such as bishop, priests and religious brothers and sisters. Church was inclusive of all people by right of their Baptism, ordained and lay people alike; with Jesus Christ as the head.

In describing the Church as the People of God, the Council underlines the continuity between Israel as the People of God and the Church as the People of God.

With this recognition came a shared responsibility across all members of the Church in leadership and involvement in ministries in the Church. The growth of Parish Pastoral Councils and lay people taking on roles such as readers and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion at Mass were a direct result of understanding Church as the People of God.