

Chapter 1

The Church Gives Life

[*Handing Over of the Keys* by Pietro Perugino]

In this assignment, students will engage with the history and reality of the papacy. They will learn more about an individual pope and what the role of the pope is in the contemporary world. Display the following information on the most recent popes:

- St. Paul VI (1963-1978)
- Bl. John Paul I (1978)
- St. John Paul II (1978-2005)
- Benedict XVI (2005-2013)
- Francis (2013-2025)
- Leo XIV (2025-)

Assign the students to do further research on one of these popes in order to answer each of the questions on the Pope Research worksheet.

Pope Research

1. What was the pope like as a child?
2. What was he known for as a priest?
3. What is his time as pope most known for?
4. What do you find most interesting about this pope?
5. What is a teaching, a document, or a speech that this pope gave that left a mark on the Church?
6. Name one important pilgrimage that he made, where he went, and why?
7. How has reading about this pope impacted your understanding of the papacy?
8. How do you understand the role of the pope in the Church?