

Role of the Bishop

“The ministry of a bishop is to represent Christ and his Church, particularly as apostle, chief priest, and pastor of a diocese.”

1979 Book of Common Prayer, p. 855

The Bishop Diocesan is the chief pastor and teacher in the diocese, a role he or she shares with the Bishops Suffragan. The presence of a bishop at Confirmation underscores the importance of this rite in the life of the Church.

The bishop is the Celebrant and Preacher at confirmation services. Confirmation is an opportunity for individuals to experience the ministry of the bishops. The laying-on-of-hands at Confirmation is an outward sign of the presence of the Holy Spirit and forms a personal and physical link between the Confirmand and the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church throughout the world and through time.

The bishop should be available to meet with candidates through deanery events, diocesan youth events, and parish visitations. Conversation, questions, and the mutual sharing of stories are opportunities for individuals to become personally connected with the Bishop as a representative of the wider Church as well as a faithful servant of Christ. Clergy and lay leaders are strongly urged to contact the bishop’s office to arrange a convenient time for this to occur well in advance of the event you are planning. One does not need to wait until the morning of the confirmation service to meet the bishop.