



Invest time each week to expand your vocabulary and deepen your faith.

10 November 2024

## WORD OF THE WEEK

### Cardinal \ˈkɑrd-nəl\

From Latin *cardo*, for "hinge," a high church official who ranks just below pope, can only be appointed by the pope, and serves primarily as a papal advisor.

Pronunciation: <https://tinyurl.com/Take5-cardinal>

### CONTEXT

JFK [President John F. Kennedy] used to say the bishops and the **cardinals** were all Republicans, but the nuns were Democrats!  
—Kitty Kelley

When we walk without the cross, we are not disciples of the Lord. We are worldly. We may be bishops, priests, **cardinals**, popes, all of this, but we are not disciples of the Lord.  
—Pope Francis

The **cardinals** have elected me, a simple, humble worker in the Lord's vineyard.  
—Pope Benedict XVI

### WHY IT MATTERS

The significance of the office of the **cardinal** lies in direct and close relationship to the pope. The worldwide governance of the church is no small thing, and the burden is just a little lighter when **cardinals** share in the responsibilities as papal advisors, celebrants, envoys, and representatives.

From *The Code of Canon Law* by James H. Provost: The **cardinals** are a unique figure of Roman Catholicism. They exercise major influence in the church, not only because they form the college that elects the bishop of Rome, but also because they occupy major positions in the central administration of the church and, increasingly, are the diocesan bishops of major sees around the world.

### RELATED WORDS

Bishop | Pope | Priest | Deacon

## QUESTION OF THE WEEK

### What is the role of a cardinal?

**Cardinals** were originally priests with permanent parish assignments. In the fifth century, the title was first given to the superior priest at a major church. **Cardinal**-priests rendered judgments on clergy and laity, and later served as grand inquisitors in determining heresies. **Cardinals** became electors of the pope in the 11th century by decree of Pope Nicholas II. **Cardinals** formed a corporation called a college. Their office came to outrank bishops, and in 1514 Leo X placed **cardinals** just under the pope. The 1917 Code of Canon Law made it imperative for **cardinals** to be chosen from the clergy—previously a layman could be designated. Pope John XXIII shrunk the pool to bishops in 1962. Paul VI confined papal voting to **cardinals** under age 80. Today, most **cardinals** are elevated from bishops in prominent dioceses. The College of **Cardinals** functions primarily as a consulting body for the pope as well as aiding in the governance of the church throughout the world. Reining in these "princes of the church" has been the challenge of many popes.

—Alice Camille, from *Questions Catholics Ask* <http://tinyurl.com/QCA-church-hierarchy>

## REFLECTION OF THE WEEK

THURSDAY OF THE THIRTY-SECOND WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME (NOVEMBER 14)

### Cardinal virtues

Unity is neither simple nor automatic. Lines across society are too easily drawn. **Cardinal** Joseph Bernardin, who died on this day in 1996, was passionate about reconciling brokenness. To Bernardin, life issues must be seen as a seamless garment. Ecumenism and interfaith dialogue were vital exercises. He established the Catholic Common Ground Project to foster understanding within the church only months before his death.

READINGS: Philemon 7-20; Luke 17:20-25 (494 <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/111424.cfm>). "For behold, the Kingdom of God is among you."

### FAITH IN ACTION

The Kingdom never arrives in fragments. What can you do to help repair broken ties in your own life?