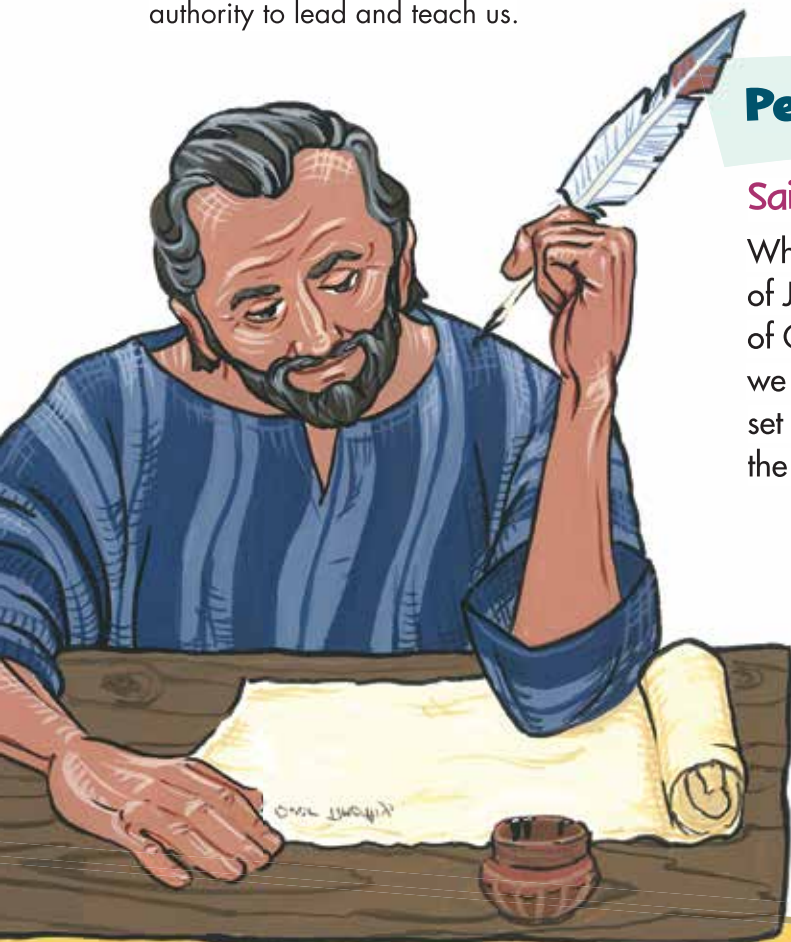


# Family Page

## Background Reflection

In this chapter, we read a passage from a letter from Saint Paul to Saint Timothy. We learn that Timothy is a young bishop in the early Church whose guide is Paul. In this letter, Paul encourages Timothy to take care to practice his faith in word and deed. Like Timothy, we also pass on the faith to others in word and deed: studying Scripture, talking about the Gospel, and being a good example. As our faith grows, so does the faith of those around us.

We can trace the authority of our bishops all the way back to Saint Peter. He received his authority from Jesus and in turn laid hands on the other Apostles to call them to continue to teach and lead people. The Apostles, as the first bishops, continued this tradition, and so each generation of bishops has passed this apostolic authority on to the next, through the power of the Holy Spirit. This is why we say our Church is apostolic. Apostolic Succession gives our bishops the authority to lead and teach us.



## People of Faith

### Saint Paul the Apostle (first century)

While persecuting Christians, Saint Paul had a vision of Jesus. From that day, Saint Paul became a follower of Christ. He explained Jesus' teachings in letters that we still hear at Mass today. Paul urged Christians to set an example of love for one another. The feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul is January 25.

## Prayer

*Pray this prayer together as a family, beginning and ending with the Sign of the Cross.*

Heavenly Father, help us to lead by example, sharing the Good News of God's love through what we say and do. And help our bishops and priests in all that they do. Amen.

- Meet as a family each evening this week to take turns identifying one way God has blessed each family member's day. Consider opening and closing this activity with a family prayer of gratitude.
- Read together 1 Timothy 4:11–16 in *The Catholic Children's Bible* (page 1880). Invite your child to describe what it is like for him or her to be young and part of the Church. Ask your child how you can help him or her to learn more about their faith. Identify one way your family can support one another's faith journeys this week.
- Watch the video "Set an Example | Elementary Worship Song" (YouTube, 1:54) together. Review why it is important to set a good example. Discuss how your child can set a good example for others by following the teaching of the Catholic Church.