

The Church is built on three things: its members, the religious, and God. Each is essential, and without all of these elements, the Church cannot function properly. "Just as a body though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12)." Priests, nuns, and monks all help to keep the faith alive in many ways.

Priests are the heart of the parish community. They do a multitude of things; from celebrating Mass to praying and fasting. Priests perform the sacraments of reconciliation, matrimony, communion, confirmation, and the Anointing of the Sick. We receive the Eucharist straight from the hands of a priest at Sunday Mass. God forgives sins, cures illness, and shares wisdom through the actions of these holy men. Priests are truly the rock of the Church, and if they were not there to guide us always, we would be lost.

Nuns and monks are another group of leaders who have dedicated their lives to the Catholic Church. They set good examples for others by living according to their vows of chastity, obedience, and poverty, or "C.O.P.", as Sister Terry Au, my fifth grade teacher, always told us to remember. Sister is the head of the school choir that sings at every Friday mass, and has been for many years. She is a great teacher and is adored by everyone here at St. Luke. Sr. Terry is only one of thousands of nuns and monks spreading God's joy and love everyday. They are pillars in our Catholic community and have a huge impact on our faith.

If there were no priests, nuns, or monks, who would we look to for guidance? Who would prepare Mass? Who would perform the sacraments? Who would we trust to educate students in the Catholic faith? Hopefully these questions will never need to be asked. These special people are the foundation of the Church.