

Dear Padre,

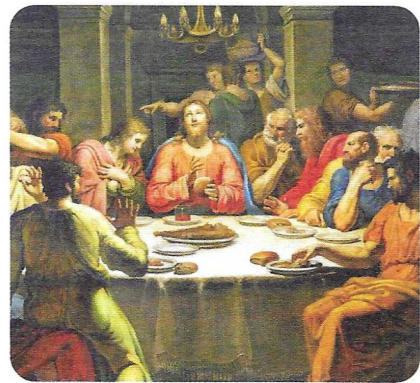
Why should I believe Jesus founded the Catholic Church?

What a great question, especially during our Easter season, when the readings at Mass are about how the early Church discovers its mission and identity. Jesus intended to found a Church to carry on his mission.

Jesus chose twelve men to accompany him and learn from him. He passed on his mission to them: “Whoever listens to you listens to me. Whoever rejects you rejects me. And whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me” (Luke 10:16). Jesus called Simon Bar-Jonah “Peter,” meaning “rock.” Indicating his foundational role, Jesus said to Peter, “I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven” (Matthew 16:19).

Throughout the New Testament, we read how the apostles in their turn passed on their authority to other individuals by the laying on of hands (Acts 6:6; 13:3; 1 Timothy 4:14; 2 Timothy 1:6). Initially, the only two orders were bishops and deacons, but soon priests were also ordained to share some of the authority of the bishop and to be his assistants.

The Church would exist and do Jesus’ work until the end of time. The whole Church, the “Body of Christ,” as Paul would call it (1 Corinthians 12:27), would be Christ acting in the world on his behalf. The Church and all its members are to be “the light of the world” and “the salt of the earth” (Matthew 5:13-16). ●



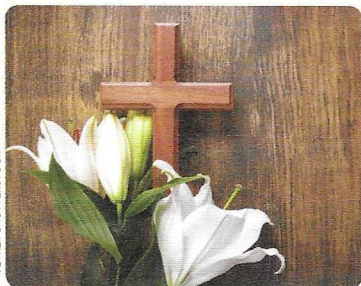
RENAVA SEMANOVVA / SHUTTERSTOCK

Bishop Bruce Lewandowski, CSsR / DearPadre.org

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
April 10	April 11	April 12	April 13	April 14	April 15	April 16
<i>Octave of Easter</i>	<i>Octave of Easter</i>	<i>Octave of Easter</i>	<i>Octave of Easter</i>	<i>Octave of Easter</i>	<i>Octave of Easter</i>	<i>Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday)</i>
Acts 2:14, 22-32	Acts 2:36-41 Jn 20:11-18	Acts 3:1-10 Lk 24:13-35	Acts 3:11-26 Lk 24:35-48	Acts 4:1-12 Jn 21:1-14	Acts 4:13-21 Mk 16:9-15	Acts 2:42-47 1 Pt 1:3-9 Jn 20:19-31
Mt 28:8-15						

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A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

The peace Jesus gives to us at Easter is not the peace that follows the strategies of the world, which believes it can obtain it through force.... This peace, in reality, is only an interval between wars.... The peace of the Lord follows the way of meekness and mildness: it is taking responsibility for others.

GENERAL AUDIENCE, APRIL 13, 2022