



The Kids' Catholic Virginian

"Let the little children come to me" – Matthew 19:14

Symbols of a bishop

Bishop Barry C. Knestout recently marked 34 years of being a priest! We're grateful for his service. He was ordained a priest on June 24, 1989. Pope Francis appointed him our bishop more than five years ago, making him the 13th bishop of the Diocese of Richmond.

There are certain things a bishop wears – or carries – and they all have special meanings:

Miter (MY-ter): The bishop wears a special head-dress for Mass to show his authority. It comes to a peak at the top. It folds flat when the bishop takes it off, usually when he prays at Mass. There are two strips of cloth hanging down the back.



Zucchetto

(zuh-KEH-toe): Underneath the miter, you'll see the bishop wearing a small, magenta skullcap. A long time ago, holy men might have shaved the top of their heads as a sign of humility, and the skullcap would protect that bare spot on their head.

Priests may wear a black one, but we don't see that much anymore. The pope also wears one, which is always white in color.



Crosier (KROH-zher): The bishop is the pastor of our diocese. He's our chief shepherd and guides us in our faith, which is why the crozier reminds us of a shepherd's crook. It also goes way back to the walking sticks the Twelve Apostles used.



Episcopal ring

(eh-PIS-kuh-pull): The bishop wears a ring on the ring finger of his right hand. Just as married couples wear wedding rings to show they are faithful to each other, the bishop wears this ring to show he is married to the Church.

Pectoral cross

(PEK-tur-uhl): The bishop wears a cross on a chain around his neck. It's a sign of his special position as bishop. It's made to be worn near his heart.



Bishop Knestout shows the **papal bull** which made it official that Pope Francis appointed him our bishop. It's called a papal bull when a pope wants to make a public announcement. "Bull" doesn't refer to an animal. It actually refers to the fancy seal at the bottom – in Latin, that seal is a "bulla."



Ask the Bishop

Q. Who is your favorite Star Wars character?

-Greyson Crowder, 5, St. Gregory the Great, Virginia Beach

A. That's a tough one! I've seen every single "Star Wars" movie, and they're all great (the best one of all is "Rogue One"). I still remember seeing the first one on the big screen in 1979. I was blown away by the special effects as soon as I saw the first scene, when the Star Destroyer chases the smaller ship with R2-D2 and C-3PO onboard. I knew this was going to be a different kind of movie!

As for favorite character – in the last diocese where I worked, I was called "BBK" – which stood for **B**ishop **B**arry **K**nestout – so I'll say BB-8 is my favorite since the names sound similar! BB-8 is a heroic figure, even though not a main character. The droid is

able to save the secret to finding Luke Skywalker, which helped save a lot of people from the Empire.

BB-8 has a nice personality – just like R2-D2 – the droids are quiet and heroic figures who communicate in beeps and whistles. But they're side characters that people love, even if they're droids!



Kids 12 and younger
Email Bishop Knestout [YOUR](mailto:AskTheBishop@catholicvirginian.org) question.
AskTheBishop@catholicvirginian.org
Include your full name, age, and home parish.