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## **Opus Dei and the dioceses**

At the institutional level, what is Opus Dei's relationship with the dioceses? Is its pastoral work carried out in accord with religious institutions and other ecclesial entities?

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The life of the prelatore is inserted, as a living part, within each diocese. Therefore the prelatore is in constant contact with the diocese and its bishop. In addition, the intervention of the bishop is juridically required

for the work of the prelatore to begin in a diocese or to open new centers. The prelatore always gives great importance to working in full harmony with the life of the diocese and with the bishop's pastoral goals.

The prelatore of Opus Dei is in communion with all of the ecclesial groups present in the diocese. Within the legitimate ecclesial autonomy of each of these groups, the life of the diocese to which all belong often offers opportunities for mutual contacts and assistance. I want to stress that Opus Dei does not constitute a separate group within the diocese and that it is not, nor does it act like, an association, and that therefore its members can freely participate in associations of the faithful of a secular nature.

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