

Chapter 10 – The Church

The Mystical Body of Christ

The Catholic Church – One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic

Human / Visible

- People
 - Priest
 - Prophet
 - King
- Buildings and organization

Divine / Spiritual

- Origin in the Holy Trinity
 - The Father called the Church into Existence
 - The Son established the Church
 - The Holy Spirit filled the Church with power and wisdom at Pentecost
- Her mission is to be a sacrament of Salvation

The word Church means the people gathered by God into one community, guided today by bishops, who are the successors of the Apostles and whose head is the Bishop of Rome, the Pope.

The word *Church*, in Hebrew *qahal*, in Greek *ekklesia*, means “gathering of people of community” in worship.

The term Church also applies to specific geographical communities called dioceses. It also applies to the buildings where the faithful gather for the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist, and to families, who are called domestic churches.

The Church is a holy mystery

The visible Church is a public institution, with worldwide membership of millions of believers who gather in homes, parishes to praise God and then to go forth to witness to Christ and serve the world

The Church is a spiritual reality, with interior bonds of faith and love forged by the Holy Spirit. The spiritual reality is exemplified with the 7 sacraments.

The Church, both visible and spiritual, is the Mystical body of Christ

The church is both human...

A priestly people

All of the baptized share in Christ's priesthood

Our works, prayers, activities of family and married life, apostolic endeavors, relaxation and even the sufferings and setbacks of life can become spiritual offerings when united to the sacrifice of Christ.

Our works become a form of divine worship to sanctify the world

The church is both human...

A prophetic people

All baptized share in Christ's role as prophet, meaning the teaching and witnessing God's Word in the world.

We are to lead others to faith

Priests and the laity collaborate in the Church's missionary and evangelization work

The church is both human...

A royal people

All baptized share in Christ's kingly mission.

To lead others through loving service to them.

We are called in imitation of Jesus, to offer ourselves in service to others.

The church is both human and divine

Her origin is in the Holy Trinity

Her mission is to be the Sacrament of Salvation

The Church is a holy mystery, **her origin is in the Holy Trinity**

The Holy Trinity brought the Church into being

The Father called the Church into Existence

The Son established the Church

The Holy Spirit filled the Church with power and wisdom at Pentecost

The Holy Trinity abides with the Church always

The Church is a holy mystery, her origin is in the Holy Trinity
The Father called the Church into Existence

The Church was part of God's plan for sharing his divine life with all people.

There was a gradual formation of God's family

Covenant with Abraham

Father of a great people/nation

Land

Through your descendants all will be blessed

The Church is a holy mystery, her origin is in the Holy Trinity
The Son established the Church

Jesus brought about the fulfillment of the Father's plan for the Church first by preaching and witnessing the Good News of the Kingdom, with its gifts of salvation from sin and participation in divine life.

Jesus established the beginning of a visible structure of the Church through his choice of the Twelve Apostles with Peter as the head.

The Church is born primarily of Christ's total self-giving for our salvation

The Church is a holy mystery, her origin is in the Holy Trinity
The Holy Spirit filled the Church with power and wisdom at Pentecost

The Holy Spirit revealed the Church at Pentecost, coming upon the Apostles and disciples with transforming fire, forming them into a visible community, and empowering them to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus

The Church is a holy mystery, **her mission is to be the Sacrament of Salvation**

The Church empowered by the Holy Spirit, brings Christ's salvation to the world

She is the instrument of God's universal call to holiness

Despite the sinfulness of the people who make up the Church, she remains holy by the presence of Jesus and the Holy Spirit who permeates her.

The Church is a holy mystery, **her mission is to be the Sacrament of Salvation**

Through the Church, the Holy Spirit communicates to us the salvation gained for us by Jesus through the 7 sacraments.

The Church is the visible plan of God's love for humanity, because God desires that the whole human race become one People of God, form one Body of Christ, and be built up into one temple of the Holy Spirit.

The four marks of the Church

One

Holy

Catholic

Apostolic

Because of the sinfulness of the Church's members, these 4 marks are not always lived out fully, so we need to view them as both a reality and a challenge!

The Church is One

The Holy Spirit unites all the members of the Church as one People of God.

The Church professes one Lord, one Faith , and one Baptism and forms one body.

The unity that Christ bestowed on his Church is something she can never lose.

The Church is Holy

The Church has her origin in the Holy Trinity, and that is the source of her holiness.

The Church is holy in her Founder, in her saints, and in her means of salvation.

The Church is Catholic

The Church is universal.

The Catholic Church has lived and continues to live in a diversity of cultures and languages, because she is led by the Spirit to bring the Gospel to all peoples.

She accepts what is true and good in all cultures and at the same time infuses the truth and goodness of her tradition and life into these cultures.

The Church is Catholic

The Church is catholic because of her universal extension and presence in local communities; diocese or eparchies or “particular Churches”.

There are diocese for Armenian Catholics, Melkite-Greek Catholics, Syrian Catholics, Maronite Catholics, Byzantine Ruthenian Catholics, Ukrainian Catholics, Romanian Byzantine Catholics, Chaldean Catholics and Syro-Malabar Catholics.

These communities are linked together through their communion with the Church of Rome and her bishop, the Pope.

The Church is Catholic

The Church is universal because she is joined in many ways to all people baptized who are honored by the name of Christian, but do not profess the Catholic faith in its entirety or have not preserved unity or communion under the successor of Peter.

The Church is Catholic

The Church is universal because she engages in dialogue with Muslims, Hindus and Buddhists.

“She has a high regard for the manner of life and conduct, the precepts and doctrines which, although differing in many ways from her teaching, nevertheless often reflect a ray of truth which enlightens all men.”

The Church is Apostolic

The Church is built upon the foundation of the Apostles, who were chosen by Christ himself, and at whose head he placed Peter.

The entire community of Christians received the Apostles' proclamation of the Gospel.

Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the Church as a whole remains and will always remain faithful to the teaching of the Apostles.

The Church is Apostolic

To ensure the Church's fidelity to the Gospel, Christ willed that the Apostles be succeeded by the bishops. The Apostles, and now the Bishops, act as one body in their leadership of the Church.

Each bishop works in his particular diocese in a priestly shepherding and teaching role.

The bishops together form the teaching office called the Magisterium.

When all the bishops throughout the world, together with the People, proclaim a doctrine that has been divinely revealed, it must be accepted with the obedience of faith by the whole people of God.