

ABOUT BEING A CATHOLIC CHRISTIAN



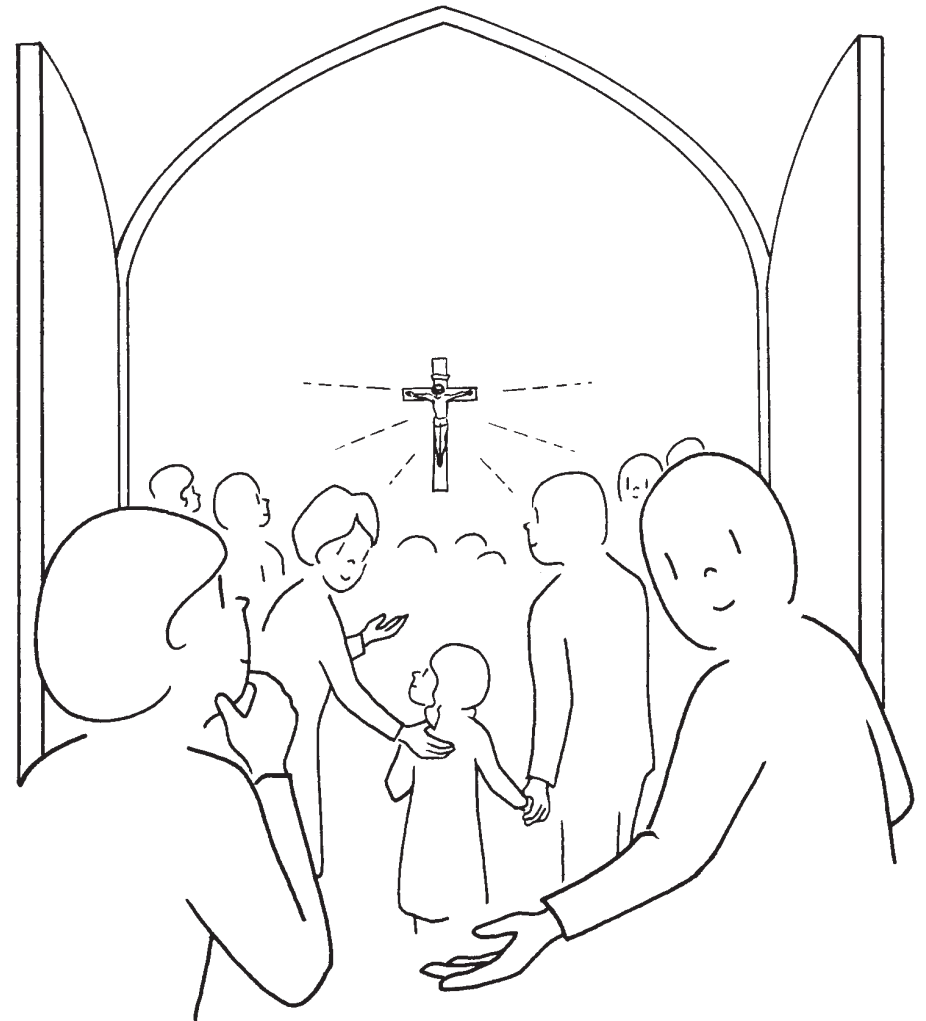
BENEDICT'S HAMMER
MATTHEW 16:13-19



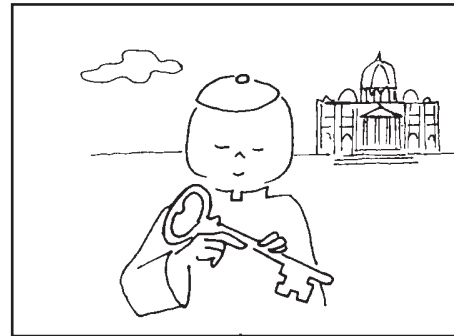
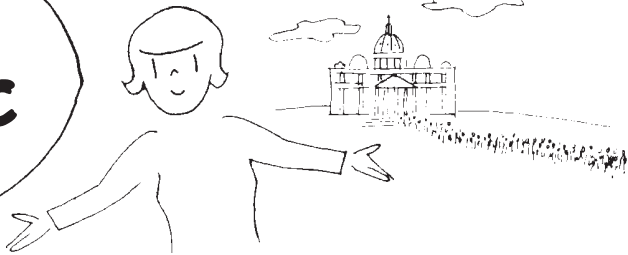
JER 23:29

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What is a CATHOLIC ?



POPE

"Bishop of Rome," visible head of the church. Administers church affairs. Universal teacher of religious truth.

Mt 16:16-19, Lk 22:32, Jn 21:15-17, 1Pet 5:1

All verses apply from Cardinals to Bishops

ARCHBISHOPS

Chief bishops overseeing affairs of the chief diocese in an area (diocese - administrative unit containing many parish churches)



Mt 19:12, 1Cor 4:15-17, 1Thess 5:12, 1Tim 3:1-7, 1Tim 5:17, 1Tim 5:22

BISHOPS

Successors to apostolic powers. Appointed by Pope; with him share major responsibility for preserving truth and unity of belief in the Church. Administer affairs of a diocese.



Acts 20:28, Rom 15:15-16, Gal 2:9, Tit 1:1, 7, 1Pet 5:5

PARISH PRIESTS

Ministers ordained to celebrate Mass, administer sacraments, preach and teach the word of God. Responsible to the bishop and their parish communities.



1Cor 7:32, 1Tim 4:14, 1Tim 5:22, 2Tim 1:6, 2Tim 4:1-5, 1Tim 5:22

DEACONS

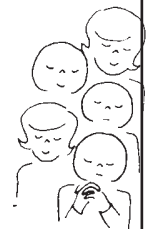
Responsible to the bishop; ordained to a "ministry of service," especially to preach and to baptize.



Acts 6:5-6, 1Tim 3:8-13

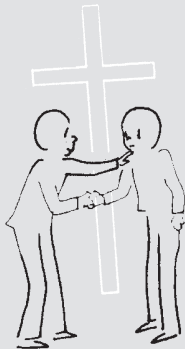
LAY PEOPLE

Take part in scripture reading, helping to distribute Eucharist, etc. Advise priest through Parish Council. Participate in the teaching mission of the Church.



Acts 11:25-26, Gal 6:10, 1Pet 2:5, 9-10

A Catholic is a CHRISTIAN who believes that

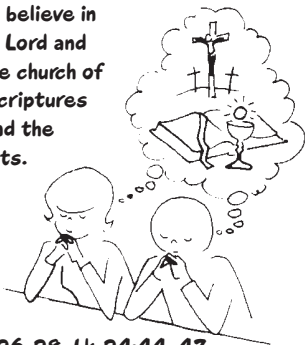


-- God, the creator of heaven and earth, is revealed to all people through Jesus Christ
-- the purpose of life is to KNOW, LOVE and SERVE GOD through divine worship and service to others.

Gen 1:3, Jn 1:1-18

LIKE OTHER CHRISTIANS,

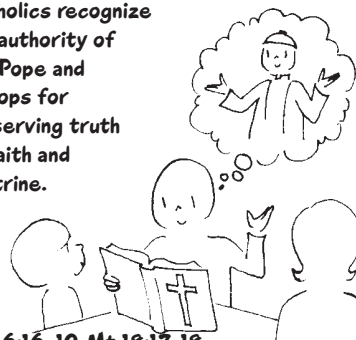
Catholics believe in Christ as Lord and Savior, the church of Sacred Scriptures (Bible), and the sacraments.



Mt 26:26-28, Lk 24:44-47, Jn 8:28, Jn 12:32, 1Tim 2:5

UNLIKE OTHER CHRISTIANS

Catholics recognize the authority of the Pope and bishops for preserving truth of faith and doctrine.



Mt 16:16-19, Mt 18:17-18, Lk 10:16, Jn 10:35, 2Thess 2:15, 2Tim 2:2, 2Tim 3:16-17

Catholics belong to a

STRUCTURED SOCIETY

Catholics all over the world are united in the body of Christ in common belief, morality and worship.

Heart of this unity is Christ, with a visible **GOVERNMENT of BISHOPS and the POPE.**

Acts 15:1-35

CARDINALS

Chosen by Pope.

Serves as his advisors and help in administering church affairs.



Mt 18:18, Mt 28:16-20

Within this structure, many RELIGIOUS GROUPS:

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

Ecclesiastical organization in which U.S. bishops work together.

US CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

Civil corporation in which bishops and other church members act on a large scale.

STATE CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

Special diocesan needs presented to government, public and private groups.

RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES

Women religious (sisters, nuns) and religious brothers follow vows of poverty, chastity and obedience; serve God through prayer, work in schools, hospitals and missions, etc.

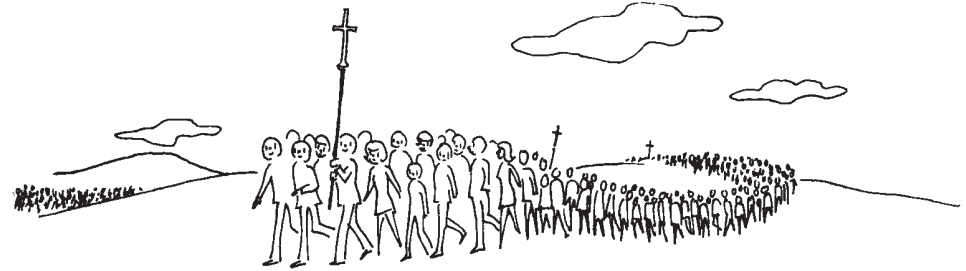
Mt 19:12, 1Tim 3:11

SECULAR INSTITUTIONS

Laypeople and clerics dedicated to God by vow and who give witness to Christ in secular life.

LAY ORGANIZATIONS

- such as Knights of Columbus, CCD, and Catholic Youth organization. They devote time and energy to serving God and neighbor.



a Catholic is a member of the ORIGINAL UNDIVIDED CHURCH

-- the "Body of Christ" (visible presence of Christ in the world)

-- a worldwide community of people God has called to share the life, light and love of Jesus Christ. Mt 5:14, Eph 4:4-6

ONE

-- in doctrine authority and worship.



HOLY

-- truly believing in Christ's teachings and serving others through the sacraments.



CATHOLIC

-- embracing all people of all times, all places.



APOSTOLIC

-- as the Apostles did, it carries Christ's message through the centuries to all people



Mt 28:16-20, Lk 10:16, Lk 22:28-30, Jn 10:7-8, 14-16, Jn 13:20, Jn 14:6, Jn 16:13-15, Jn 17:17-18, Acts 1:8, Acts 11:25-26, Eph 4:11-16, Eph 5:27, Col 1:18, 1Tim 1:13-14, 1Tim 3:15, Rev 21:14

TODAY, the Catholic Church works and prays for the REAL UNITY of faith among ALL PEOPLE as Christ commanded.

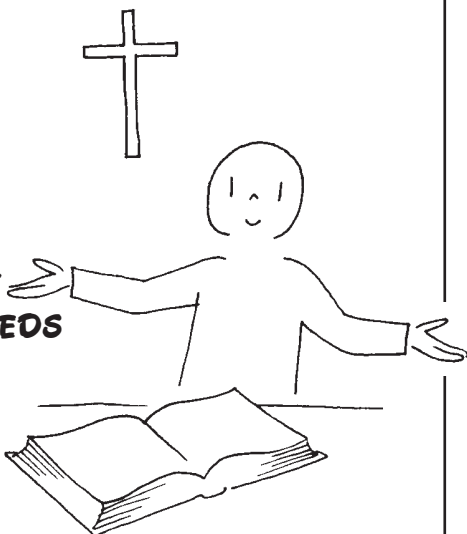
CATHOLIC BELIEFS

are based on the teachings of Christ and the Apostles.

Basic beliefs, principal truths of faith are summarized in the **CREEDS**

- Apostles' Creed
- Nicene Creed
- Aphanasian Creed.

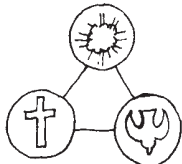
Lk: 24:44-47, 1Cor 15:3-8



TRINITY

One God in three divine persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Mt 28:19, Jn 4:24



INCARNATION

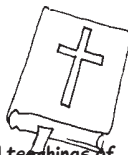
True God becoming truly human in the person of Christ.

Lk 1:31-38
Jn 1:14



BIBLE

Collection of sacred writings inspired by God, Gospel recounts actions and teachings of Jesus and His followers.



Lk 24:44-45,
2Tim 3:16-17

GRACE

God's friendship given through Christ, communicated by the Holy Spirit, Grace is necessary for Salvation.

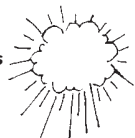
Jn 3:16-17
Jn 6:44
Eph 2:8-9, Eph 4:7



SALVATION

Deliverance from sin and its punishment, by grace of Christ's sacrifice, and eternal life with God after earthly death.

Jn 3:18-19
Jn 3:35-36

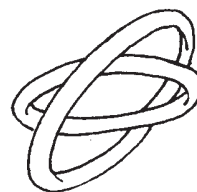


10 COMMANDMENTS

Guidelines for living a moral and just life.



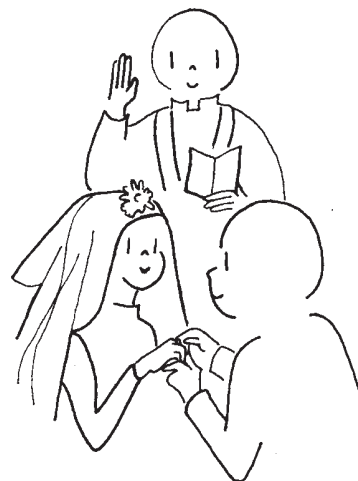
Ex 20:1-23
Dt 5:6-21
Mt 19:16-19, Mk 12:28-34,
Jn 14:15, 1Cor 7:19, Jas 2:10



MARRIAGE

A man and a woman selflessly share life, love and Christian faith with each other and with God. The sacrament is administered by the two partners themselves, with the priest acting as Church's witness. The Holy Spirit breathes God's own love into the couple's love, so that each becomes a grace for the other; helps them grow together in a life of God and so fulfill their lives.

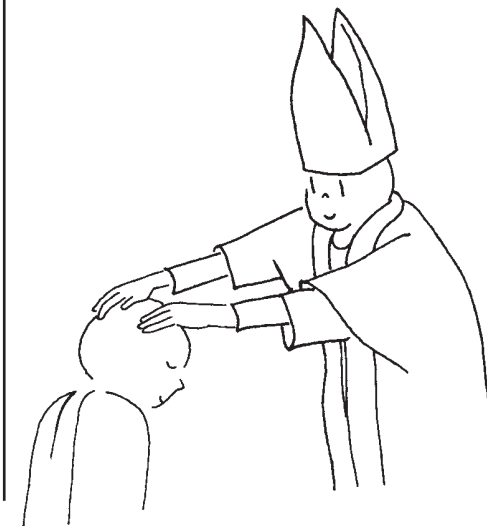
Mt 5:31-32, Mk 10:2-12, Lk 16:18,
1Cor 7:39, Eph 5:22-32, Heb 13:4



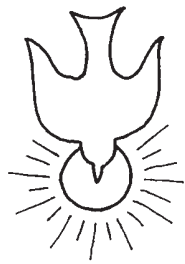
HOLY ORDERS Priesthood

This sacrament condecrates Christians in service to God. Spiritual power and grace are given to help them put aside daily concerns and devote their work to the good of the community - teaching, administering sacraments, governing the Church. Principal ministeries are those of bishop, priest and deacon.

Mk 3:14-19, Jn 13:4-11, Jn 20:22-23,
Acts 6:5-6, 1Tim 4:14, 2Tim 1:6,
Heb 7:11-12, 24



The Seven Holy Sacraments (Cont'd)



CONFIRMATION Gift of the Holy Spirit

Usually conferred by a bishop, confirmation strengthens the commitment to Christ made at Baptism, so that a person can maturely face challenges and problems in daily life as a Christian. It gives courage and strength to witness Christ in the world and to selflessly serve our fellow human beings.

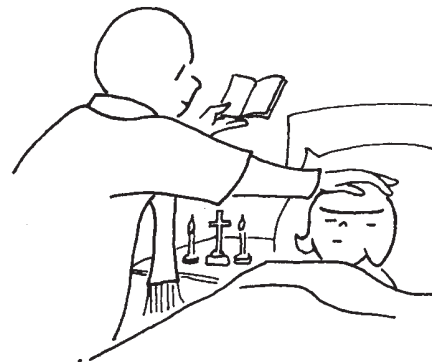
Isa 11:2, Mt 9:35, Mt 10:1, Lk 3:2, Lk 24:49, Jn 3:34, Acts 1:5, Acts 8:14-17, Acts 19:1-7



ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Anointing with blessed oil and prayers by a priest give comforting grace, bring Christ to the seriously ill or dying. Sometimes physical healing occurs. But emphasis is on spiritual healing - strengthening the soul - through forgiveness of sin.

Mt 10:1-8, Mk 6:13, Mk 7:32-35, Lk 10:1-12, Acts 10:38, Jas 5:13-15

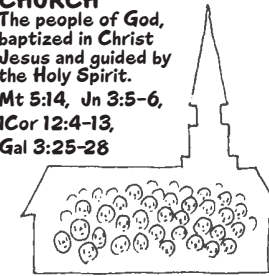


MARY
Conceived without original sin; virgin mother of Christ and mother of the church.

Lk 1:28,
Lk 1:46-48



CHURCH
The people of God, baptized in Christ Jesus and guided by the Holy Spirit.
Mt 5:14, Jn 3:5-6, 1Cor 12:4-13, Gal 3:25-28



POPE
Visible head of the Church, and successor to St. Peter.

Mt 16:18-19,
Jn 1:42,
1Pet 5:1



SAINTS
People of extraordinary holiness who have joined God - often asked to intercede in prayer for people on earth.

Mt 22:32, Lk 9:30,
1Cor 11:1, 1Tim 2:1-2,
Heb 12:1



SIN
Thought, word, deed or omission, contrary to God's law; 2 kinds:

ORIGINAL: inherited sin of the human race
ACTUAL: deliberate violation of God's law
-- mortal sin, venial sin

Mt 5:29-30, Mk 3:29, Lk 17:1-2, Jn 3:6, 1Cor 15:21-22, Jas 2:10, 1Jn 5:16-17

JUDGEMENT
Jesus Christ's evaluation of our openness to Him and our decision about Him, based on the kind of life we live.

Mt 25:31-32, 41
Mt 22:13-14,
Jn 5:22-27



HEAVEN
One's life in God after death - a state of supreme happiness in which one enjoys God face to face

Mt 5:8,
Mt 6:19-21,
Rev 21:1-7,
Rev 22:1-5



HELL
The result of our refusing God's friendship; permanent exile from God.

Mt 10:28,
Lk 16:22-24,
Rev 20:13-15



PURGATORY
A state of purification for souls that did not make up for falling short of God's commands during their lifetime on earth.

Mt 5:25-26
1Cor 3:10-15,
Rev 21:27



FAITH
Belief in God's words, works and goodness; believing and obeying, knowing that full understanding is given only when we finally enter heaven.

Mt 10:39, Mk 6:34,
Lk 17:5-6,
Jn 8:24,
Jn 10:37-38



HOPE - RESURRECTION

Seeing good in spite of evil; expecting eternal life even in the face of death. God will salvation and gives us the means to attain it.

Jn 20:19-31,
1Cor 13:13,
1Cor 15:51-57



LOVE - CHARITY

Love of God and of our neighbor, because everyone belongs to God.

Mt 25:33-40,
Jn 15:12,
Rom 13:8-10,
Gal 5:6, 14



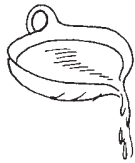
The **HOLY SACRAMENTS** are vital in Catholic life...

THE SEVEN HOLY SCARAMENTS

Living signs of Christ's presence in the world



Acts of Christ through the living Church which deepen our relationship with God, give guidance and strength on the path to salvation.

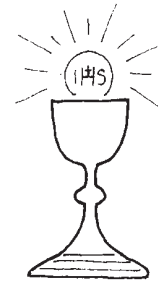
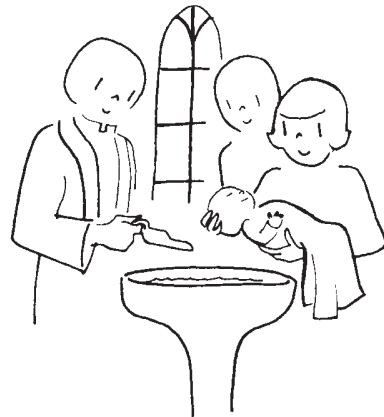


BAPTISM The First Sacrament

Initiation into the Christian community, the Body of Christ.

Baptism cleanses the soul of the effects of original sin and any sins committed up to that time. The Holy Spirit enters the soul and makes it one with Christ. Poured water and spoken words signify "NEW BIRTH," the beginning of life with God and membership among the people of God.

Mt 28:18-20, Mk 16:15-16, Jn 3:5-6, Acts 2:37-38, Rom 5:5, Eph 5:26, Gal 4:6, Tit 3:5-7, 1Pet 3:20-21



EUCCHARIST Scarificial Banquet

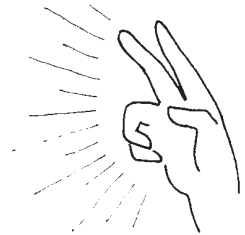
• AS SACRIFICE

The Mass is the central act of Catholic worship; it is a prayer of thanksgiving by which Calvary is renewed. "The very presence of Christ" comes into the lives of the community; unites them with Christ, strengthens their faith in God and commitment to work for salvation.

• AS SACRAMENT

The priest consecrates bread and wine; Jesus becomes present, whole and entire in these elements, to nourish His community.

Lk 22:14-21, Jn 6:52-58, Jn 19:30, 34, Rom 6:3-4, Heb 8:1-2, Heb 9:24-27



SCARAMENTS OF RECONCILIATION Penance

This sacrament involves sincere sorrow for violating one's friendship with God, and desire to be reconciled with God and the faith community. **CONFESSION OF SINS** is made to an ordained priest, who grants **ABSOLUTION** (assurance of God's forgiveness). Then the priest assigns a **GOOD WORK**, symbolizing wholeness in a life with GOD.

Mk 1:15, Lk 13:1-5, Jn 20:22-23, 2Cor 5:18-20, 1Jn 1:9

