

THE CHURCH: JESUS CHRIST'S MISSION CONTINUES

Tenth Grade Semester 2

The purpose of this course is to help the students understand that in and through the Church they encounter the Living Jesus Christ. They will be introduced to the fact that the Church was founded by Christ through the Apostles and is sustained by him through the Holy Spirit. The students will come to know that the Church is the living Body of Christ today. This Body has both Divine and human elements. In this course, students will learn not so much about events in the life of the Church but about the sacred nature of the Church.

Objectives

- **Describe the intimate bond linking the kingdom of God and the Church-that our Church is the kingdom in seed form.**
- *Learn to love the Church more earnestly as the embodiment of the proclamation of the kingdom of God on earth.*

I. Christ established his one Church to continue his presence and his work

- A. The Origin, Foundation, and Manifestation of the Church (CCC, 748-975)
 1. The Church—planned by the Father (LG 2; CCC, 759)
 2. Preparation for the Church begins with God's promise to Abraham (CCC, 762)
 3. The Catholic Church was instituted by Christ who (CCC, 748-766)
 - a. Inaugurated the Church by preaching Good News (CCC, 767-768)
 - b. Endowed his community with a structure that will remain until the Kingdom is fully achieved (CCC, 765)
 - c. The Church is born primarily of Christ's total self-giving (CCC, 766)
 4. The Holy Spirit revealed the Church at Pentecost (CCC, 767-768)
 5. Church is pillar and foundation of Truth (I Tim 3:15) (CCC, 768)

Objectives

- *Recognize our faith as living and leading to ever-greater understanding of the divine word under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.*
- **Explain that by a living transmission-Tradition-the Holy Spirit in the Church teaches the children of God to pray.**
- *Recognize that the Holy Spirit who teaches the Church and recalls to her all that Jesus said, also instructs her in the life of prayer.*
- **Identify the foundations of the authority of the hierarchy in the Church as follows: the Gospels, the role of Peter in the apostolic age, other pertinent New Testament passages-making clear the role of the Apostles in the early Church.**

I. Christ established his one Church to continue his presence and his work

- B. The descent of the Holy Spirit (CCC, 696, 731-732; 767, 1076, 1287, 2623)
 - 1. Fifty day preparation
 - 2. Jesus remains with us always
 - 3. The events of the first Pentecost
- C. Holy Spirit is present in the entire Church (CCC, 737-741)
 - 1. Spirit present in and through the Church
 - 2. The Holy Spirit bestows varied hierarchic and charismatic gifts upon the Church
 - 3. The Spirit's gifts help the Church to fulfill her mission. (cf., CCC, 768; LG 4)
- D. Holy Spirit inspires Apostles' mission (CCC, 857, 860)
 - 1. The Great Commission (CCC, 858-860)
 - 2. The preaching of Peter on Pentecost (CCC, 551-556)
 - 3. The growth of the Church (CCC, 770-933)
 - 4. Conflict with Jewish and Roman authorities (CCC, 2474)
 - a. Persecutions (CCC, 675-677, 769, 1816)
 - b. Martyrdoms: Stephen, James (CCC, 2473-2474)
 - 5. The Church spreads to the Gentiles (CCC, 762, 774-776, 781)
 - a. The conversion of St. Paul (CCC, 442)
 - b. Paul's missionary journeys (CCC, 442)

Objectives

- **Identify the foundations of the authority of the hierarchy in the Church as follows: the Gospels, the role of Peter in the apostolic age, other pertinent New Testament passages-making clear the role of the Apostles in the early Church.**
- **Define apostolic tradition and apostolic succession.**

I. Christ established his one Church to continue his presence and his work

- E. Handing on the teaching of Jesus (CCC, 787-789; 792, 796)
 - 1. Apostolic Tradition (CCC, 857-865)
 - 2. The development of the New Testament (CCC, 124-133)
- F. The role of the Apostles in the early Church (CCC, 857)
 - 1. Chosen and appointed by Jesus Christ (CCC, 857-860)
 - 2. The Council of Jerusalem: the Apostles recognized as leaders of the Church (CCC, 860)
 - 3. Community of Apostles continued in community of pope and bishops (CCC, 861-862)

Course Objectives

- **Name, summarize and explain various images and models of the Church as reflected in the Scriptures: People of God, Bride of Christ, Mother, Servant, Mystical Body of Christ, Temple of the Holy Spirit, Pilgrim, Hierarchical Society, Community and Herald.**
- *Appreciate the rich variety and diversity of Scriptural images and models that help us better grasp the reality of the life and mission of the Church.*

II. Images of the Church (Partial Insights of Church sharing in Trinitarian Communion)

- A. In the Old Testament (CCC, 753-762)
 1. Prefigured in Noah's Ark (CCC, 56, 753)
 2. The Call of Abraham, and the promise to him of descendants (CCC, 762)
 3. Israel's election as the People of God (CCC, 762)
 4. The remnant foretold by the prophets (CCC, 762)
- B. From the New Testament (CCC, 763-776)
 1. The Body of Christ (CCC, 787-795)
 2. The Temple of the Holy Spirit (CCC, 797-801)
 3. The Bride of Christ (CCC, 796)
 4. The Vine and Branches (CCC, 787)
 5. The Seed and the Beginning of the Kingdom (CCC, 541, 669, 764, 768)
 6. The Family of God (CCC, 791, 1655-1658, 2204-2685)
- C. Images Rooted in Scripture and Developed in Tradition
 1. The People of God (CCC, 781-782)
 2. The Way to Salvation
 3. Marian Images (CCC, 507, 773, 967, 972)
 4. The Community of Disciples
 5. A Pilgrim people

Objectives

- **Define and outline the meaning of each of the four marks of the Church: One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic; express their cohesive interrelatedness including how they originate in Christ.**
- *Value the unity in faith, life, teaching and worship that is a mark of the Church.*
- **Explain that one enters the People of God by faith and Baptism.**
- **Outline the relationship of the Catholic Church to other Christian ecclesial bodies and to the major religions of the world.**

III. The Marks of the Church

- A. The Church is one (CCC, 813-822)
 1. Unity is in Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit; it is visible unity in the world

2. The Church is united in charity, in the profession of one faith, in the common celebration of worship and sacraments, and in Apostolic succession. (CCC, 815)
3. Unity in diversity
 - a. Multiplicity of peoples, cultures, and liturgical traditions. (CCC, 814, 1202)
 - b. Communion of twenty-one Eastern Catholic Churches and one Western Church, all in union with the Pope

Objectives

- **Show a knowledge of periods, events and trends in the history of our Church including but not limited to : Council of Jerusalem, the Fathers, Edict of Milan/Council of Nicea, Religious Orders (including Lectio divina), East-West Schism, Aquinas, Protestant Reformation (especially Luther), Council of Trent, Church in the New World including U.S. and the Diocese of Pittsburgh, Vatican I & II.**
- **Discuss various ways that the teaching of Vatican Council II has affected the contemporary Church experience, connecting Council documents with the Church's development as seen in the modern world.**
- *Acknowledge one's parish ethnic traditions, connecting parish history to the Church's story here and abroad.*
- *Be sensitive to the diversity, needs, and concerns of others in the Church through an understanding of how the Church (and the world) has responded to the human condition throughout history.*
- *Acknowledge the enormous spiritual force that our Church was and is on the history of civilization.*

III. The Marks of the Church

A. The Church is one (CCC, 813-822)

4. Wounds to unity

a. Heresies (Note modern parallels)

- 1) Early Church heresies: Gnosticism, Arianism, Nestorianism, Monophysitism and Apollinarianism (CCC, 464, 466-467, 471)
- 2) Protestant Reformation: emphasized *sola scriptura* (the Bible alone) and *sola gratia* (grace alone)
- 3) New divisions—sects and cults

b. Schisms (The split between East and West)

- 1) Following the Council of Ephesus in 431, those Churches which followed Nestorius, established separate Churches; later returned to union with Rome
- 2) Following the Council of Chalcedon in 451, those who accepted the Monophysite position formed what are called the Oriental Orthodox Churches.

3) Eastern Schism of 1054: the Pope in Rome and the bishop of Constantinople excommunicated each other thus leading to the breach between the Roman Catholic Church and the Eastern Orthodox Church

c. Apostasy

5. Ecumenism

a. Jesus' prayer for unity of his disciples (Jn 17: 11) (CCC, 820)

b. Vatican II documents

c. Ecumenical dialogues with Orthodox Churches and Protestant ecclesial and faith communities emphasized common baptism of all Christians and common service to love even to the point of joint-martyrdom

d. The fullness of Christ's Church subsists in the Catholic Church (LG, 8)

6. Interreligious Dialogue

a. Judaism, which holds a unique place in relation to the Catholic Church

b. Islam

c. Other religions

Objectives

- **Discuss the life of holiness, with examples of the saints, to which each member of the Church is called.**
- *Desire to live a life of holiness through a personal striving toward the practice of the virtue of charity.*

III. The Marks of the Church

B. The Church is holy (CCC, 823-829)

1. Holiness is from the all-holy God: all human beings are called to live in holiness

2. Christ sanctifies the Church through the Holy Spirit and grants the means of holiness to the Church

3. Church members must cooperate with God's grace

a. Divine dimensions of the Church

b. Human dimensions of the Church

4. Church members sin, but Church as Body of Christ is sinless

a. Church constantly fosters conversion and renewal

5. Mary, Mother of the Church and Model of Faith

a. The Annunciation and Mary's "yes" to God

b. Mary's perpetual virginity

c. The Immaculate Conception and the Assumption

6. Canonized saints: models of holiness

a. Their example encourages us

b. They intercede for us

7. The members of the Church are always in need of purification, penance and renewal (LG 8.3, cited in CCC 827, 1428; Decree on Ecumenism 6.1, cited in

CCC 821)

C. The Church is catholic (CCC, 830-856)

1. Church has been sent by Christ on a mission to the whole world and exists worldwide
2. Church exists for all people and is the means to salvation for all people
3. Salvation comes from the Church even for non-members (cf. *Dominus Jesus*, section 20; CCC 1257)

D. The Church is apostolic (CCC, 857-865)

1. Founded by Christ on the Twelve with the primacy of Peter
2. Has apostolic mission and teaching of Scripture and Tradition
3. Guided by successors of the Twelve, the pope and bishops
4. Christ calls all Church members to share Gospel of salvation

Objectives

- **Describe the Catholic Church as the primary Sacrament of Christ that continues his loving presence in the world.**
- *Express a desire to join in the life and worship of the Church out of an appreciation of the Church as the continuation of the life of Christ in the world.*
- *Participate in the missionary work of the Church through prayer witness and sacrifice at home, in the workplace and in the public square.*
- *Participate more fully, in response to the vocation given by Baptism, in various aspects of life, work and worship in the Church within the school, parish, diocese and universal Church.*

IV. The Church in the World

A. The Church is sign and instrument of communion with God and unity of the human race (CCC, 760)

B. Christ founded the Church with a divine purpose and mission (CCC, 760)

1. Jesus—not the members—endowed Church with authority, power and responsibility (CCC, 763-766)
2. Church transcends history yet is part of history
3. Church continues Christ's salvation, preserves and hands on his teaching
4. Church scrutinizes “signs of the times”—interprets them in light of Gospel

C. The Church and her mission of evangelization (CCC, 861, 905)

1. definition and description of evangelization
2. missionary efforts
3. call to a new evangelization

Objectives

- **Define the hierarchical role in the Church as that of a leadership of service, stating the three hierarchical roles today as defined by Vatican I & II: the papacy, the college of bishops and individual bishops.**
- **Outline the tenets of Church teaching on sexuality as found in the documents of Vatican II, as well as *Humanae Vitae* and *Familiaris Consortia*, including the goodness of Natural Family Planning.**
- **Define Laity; define apostolic vocation.**
- **Make clear that the apostolate of the laity is not a clericalization of it (i.e. not only can laypersons fulfill specified liturgical roles, but the laity should also witness to Christ in the world-jobs, society, family, etc.)**
- ***Appreciate the meaning of sexuality and sex from the Catholic perspective as ordered toward the good of marriage and the family.***

IV. The Church in the World

- D. Visible structure of the Church: a hierarchical communion (CCC, 880-896)
1. The College of Bishops in union with the pope as its head
 - a. The Holy See
 - b. Individual dioceses
 - c. Parishes
 - d. Family: the domestic Church (CCC, 791, 1655-1658, 2204-2685)
 2. The various vocations of life
 - a. Ordained bishops, diocesan and religious priests continue the ministry of Christ the Head (CCC, 1555-1568)
 - b. Ordained deacons continue the ministry of Christ the Servant (CCC, 1569-1571)
 - c. Religious: consecrated by vows to Christ (CCC, 925-933)
 - 1) Religious orders
 - 2) Religious societies
 - d. Laity: baptized members of Christ (CCC, 897-913)
 - 1) Evangelization and sanctification of the world
 - 2) Some of the laity work full time for the Church
 - 3) The laity live in various states of life
 - a) Marriage and family life
 - b) Single life
 - c) Third Orders and lay consecrated people

Objectives

- **Define and distinguish between the terms: revelation, doctrine, tradition, scripture, ordinary magisterium, extra-ordinary magisterium, primacy, infallibility and collegiality, explaining and giving examples of the difference between Church doctrine and Church discipline.**
- **Describe various authoritative teaching levels and formats-ecumenical council, papal magisterium, papal infallibility-giving examples if infallible ordinary teaching and infallible extraordinary teaching of the Church.**
- *Appreciate the authentic and normative role of the magisterium, or teaching office, in the Church and seek to be formed by its teaching in faith and morals.*
- *Value the consistency whereby development of doctrine occurs within the life of the Church.*
- *Appreciate the Holy Spirit's guidance and the consistency of Truth in our Church's past, present and future.*

IV. The Church in the World

E. Teaching office in the Church: the Magisterium (CCC, 890)

1. The teaching role of the pope and bishops
 - a. Authentic interpreters of God's Word in Scripture and Tradition
 - b. Assure fidelity to teachings of the Apostles on faith and morals (CCC, Glossary)
 - c. Explain the hierarchy of truths
 - d. The Ordinary Magisterium must be accepted even when it is not pronounced in a 'definitive manner.
 - e. Obey the mandate for evangelization
2. Indefectibility and infallibility
 - a. Indefectibility: the Church will always teach the Gospel of Christ without error even in spite of the defects of her members, both ordained and lay
 - b. Infallibility: the gift of the Holy Spirit which gives the Church the ability to teach faith and morals without error
 - 1) The pope can exercise infallibility when teaching alone on faith and morals when the teaching is held in common by the bishops of the world and the pope declares that he is teaching *ex cathedra* (CCC, 891)
 - 2) The pope and bishops exercise infallibility when they teach together either in regular teaching dispersed throughout the world or when gathered in an Ecumenical Council (CCC, 892)
3. The law of the Church
 - a. Pastoral norms for living the faith and moral life, e.g., the Precepts of the Church
 - b. Disciplines of the Church can be adjusted by the hierarchy for new circumstances

F. Sanctifying Office of the Church (CCC, 893)

1. The Eucharist is the center of life in the Church
2. Bishops and priests sanctify the Church by prayer, work and ministry of the Word and the Sacraments
3. Goal for all is eternal life

G. Governing Office of the Church (CCC, 894-896)

1. The Pope, the Bishop of Rome, exercises supreme, ordinary, and immediate jurisdiction over the universal Church
2. Bishops have responsibility to govern their particular Churches; they are to exercise their authority and sacred power with the Good Shepherd as their model

Objectives

- **Explain that non-Catholics who believe in Christ and who have been properly baptized have a certain though imperfect union with the Catholic Church.**
- **Explain the proper meaning of the phrase “no salvation outside the Church.”**

V. Implications for Life of a Believer

A. Belonging to the Church is essential (CCC, 760)

1. Christ willed the Church to be the ordinary way and means of salvation (CCC, 763, 772-776)
2. We receive Christ’s redemption as members of his Body the Church
3. Christ entrusted Word and Sacraments to the Church for our salvation
4. Church has fullness of truth and totality of the means of salvation

Objectives

- Discuss prayer as the response of God's people in faith as well as the various types, forms and expression of prayer.
- Define prayer as raising one's mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things from God.
- Identify the five forms of prayer: blessing, petition, intercession, thanksgiving and praise.
- Identify the three major expressions of prayer as vocal, meditation, and contemplative prayer.
- Explore the implications of asserting that our Church continues Christ's work in the world today.
- Discuss how service to the poor and disadvantaged is ministry to the person of Christ himself.
- *Participate in the missionary work of the Church through prayer, witness and sacrifice at home, in the workplace and in the public square.*
- *Participate more fully, in response to the vocation given by Baptism, in various aspects of life, work and worship in the Church within the school, parish, diocese and universal Church.*
- *Desire to exercise apostolic service toward the poor and suffering who bear the likeness of Christ.*

V. Implications for Life of a Believer

B. Jesus Christ enriches us through the Church

1. Through the Sacraments beginning with Baptism; regular reception of the Sacraments is essential for members of the Church
2. Through a life of prayer, communion, charity, service, and justice in the household of faith
3. Through association with others who want to follow Christ in the Church

C. The Church at Prayer

1. Liturgical year (CCC, 1163-1178)
2. How we pray
3. Celebration of the Christian Mysteries (CCC, 1273-1389)

D. Living as a member of the Church, the Body of Christ, means we live as disciples, proclaiming the Lord Jesus' teaching to others (CCC, 520, 1248)

1. As disciples of Christ we are "salt and light for the world"
 - a. Living as Christ calls and teaches us as known in and through the Church
 - b. Active response to call to holiness at home, workplace, public square
 - c. Examples for Christian witness in parish and diocese
2. Necessity of prayer (CCC, 2612, 2621)
 - a. The Lord forms, teaches, guides, consoles and blesses us through prayer
 - b. Prayer helps us understand the teachings of Jesus Christ and his Church in a deeper way and live them more fully

VI. Challenges

A. Why do I have to be a Catholic? Aren't all religions as good as another?

(CCC, 760, 817-822, 836)

1. To be a Catholic is to be a member of the one true Church of Christ. While elements of truth can be found in other churches and religions, the fullness of the means of salvation subsists in the Catholic Church (CCC, 816, 836-838).
2. Christ willed that the Catholic Church be his Sacrament of salvation, the sign and the instrument of the communion of God and man (CCC, 774-776, 780)
3. Christ established his Church as a visible organization through which he communicates his grace, truth, and salvation (CCC, 771)
4. Those who through no fault of their own do not know Christ or the Catholic Church are not excluded from salvation; in a way known to God all people are offered possibility of salvation through the Church (CCC, 836-848)
5. Members of the Catholic Church have the duty to evangelize others (CCC, 849-856)

B. Isn't the Church being hypocritical in telling other people to be holy and avoid sin when many Catholics, including the clergy, are guilty of terrible wrongs?

(CCC, 823-829)

1. Some members of the Church might be hypocritical. Members of the Church, like all human beings, are guilty of sin but this doesn't make the Church wrong or hypocritical.
2. The Church teaches what God has told us about how to be holy and the necessity of avoiding sin. Failure by members of the Church to live out what God has taught does not invalidate the truth of the teaching we have received through the Apostles and their successors.
3. The Church is guided and animated by the Holy Spirit, and as the Body of Christ remains sinless even if her members sin.

C. Who needs organized religion? Isn't it better to worship God in my own way, when and how I want?

1. God desires us to come to him as members of his family, his new people, so he established the Church to accomplish that purpose (CCC, 760).
2. No one and no community can proclaim the Gospel to themselves (CCC, 875)
3. Because human beings are social in nature, we need each other's encouragement support and example (CCC, 820).
4. Worship of God has both a personal dimension and a communal dimension: personal, private worship is encouraged to complement communal worship (CCC, 821, 1136- 1144)
5. The Church offers us authentic worship in spirit and in truth when we unite ourselves with Christ's self-offering in the Mass (CCC, 1322-1324).
6. God taught in the Old and New Testaments for people to come together and worship in the way that He revealed to them (CCC, 1093-1097).
7. The Catholic Church is structured so that all the members, clergy and laity alike are accountable to someone (CCC, 871-879)

D. How is it that the Catholic Church is able to sustain the unity of her members even though they live out their faith in different cultures and sometimes express their faith in different ways?

1. The Church is able to sustain unity because she has the apostolic teaching office of the pope and bishops to guide and direct her under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. (CCC, 815)
2. It is the pope and bishops who are the successors in every age to St. Peter and the Apostles (CCC, 815, 862).
3. The unity of the church is also sustained through the common celebration of worship and the Sacraments (CCC, 815).