

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

PENTECOST - - - THE DAY THE CHURCH BEGAN ITS WORK.

"You are now no longer strangers and foreigners, but you are citizens with the saints and members of God's household: you are built upon the foundation of the APOSTLES and prophets with Christ Jesus Himself as the chief cornerstone. In Him the whole structure is closely fitted together and grows into a temple holy in the Lord; in Him you too are being built together into a dwelling place for God in the Spirit."

What is the Church?

The Church is the congregation of all baptized persons united in the same true faith, the same sacrifice, and the same sacraments, under the authority of the Sovereign Pontiff and the bishops in communion with him.

THE CHURCH IS THE MYSTICAL BODY OF CHRIST

Its HEAD - - CHRIST HIMSELF

Its MEMBERS - - THE FAITHFUL

Its SOUL - - THE HOLY SPIRIT

Its LIFE - - GRACE

Just as a human body has one head, so does the Church have one Head who is Christ. The Pope is His Vicar, or representative, on earth, the visible head of the Church.

Just as our human body is made up of many members, such as hands, feet, eyes, lungs, heart, etc., so is the Mystical Body of Christ composed of many members. The members of the Church are those who are baptized, profess the true faith, and have not left or been expelled (excommunicated) from the Church.

The Church is the fullness of Christ - - Head and members, the whole Christ. In the Church we are all one in Christ. In a mysterious, yet true sense, THE CHURCH IS CHRIST

Some symbols and comparisons the Bible uses for the Church militant on earth and triumphant in heaven are: the vine, the sheep-fold, the ark of Noe, the new Jerusalem, the bride of Christ.

Who founded the Church?

Jesus Christ founded the Church.

Why did Jesus Christ found the Church?

Jesus Christ founded the Church to bring all men to eternal salvation.

How is the Church enabled to lead men to salvation?

The Church is enabled to lead men to salvation by the indwelling of the Holy Ghost, who gives it life.

When was the dwelling of the Holy Spirit in the Church first visibly manifested?

The dwelling of the Holy Spirit in the church was first visibly manifested on Pentecost Sunday, when He came down upon the apostles in the form of tongues of fire.