

Study Lesson Number: 32

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH --- continued:

How long will the Holy Spirit dwell in the Church?

The Holy Spirit will dwell in the Church UNTIL THE END OF TIME.

Who sent the Holy Spirit to dwell in the Church?

God the Father and God the Son sent the Holy Spirit to dwell in the Church.

What does the indwelling of the Holy Spirit enable the Church to do?

The indwelling of the Holy Spirit enables the Church to teach, to sanctify, and to rule the faithful in the name of Christ.

Just as a human body has one soul to give it life, so the Mystical Body of Christ has one soul, the Holy Spirit. He dwells in the body as a whole and in each living member, filling it with divine life.

Just as a human body has a human life, so does the Mystical Body of Christ have a divine life, which we call sanctifying Grace.

What is meant by teaching, sanctifying, and ruling in the name of Christ?

By teaching, sanctifying, and ruling in the name of Christ is meant that the Church always does the will of its Divine Founder, who remains forever its invisible author and Head.

THE CHURCH TEACHING:

Christ stands behind the preaching of the Church.

THE CHURCH SANCTIFYING:

Christ is the invisible Minister of every sacrament.

THE CHURCH RULING:

Christ is He who guides the Church in making its laws.

To whom did Christ give the power to teach, to sanctify, and to rule the members of His Church?

Christ gave the power to teach, to sanctify, and to rule the members of His Church to the apostles, the first bishops of the Church.

Did Christ intend that this power should be exercised by the apostles alone?

No, Christ intended that this power should be exercised also by their successors, the bishops of the Church.

Did Christ give special power in His Church to any one of the apostles?

Christ gave special power in His Church to Saint Peter by making him the head of the apostles and the chief teacher and ruler of the entire Church.

(SPECIAL NOTE) - - We should all understand that these questions and answers were prepared for publication in the Baltimore Catechism at a time when matters in the Apostolic Church of Jesus Christ were reasonably normal. Certain interpretations to these questions and answers would surely have to be placed on them in this our day, when matters in the Apostolic Church of Jesus Christ are reasonably abnormal!