

Holy Trinity Catholic Church
RCIA Class Transcript
The Catholic Church
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Tonight's topic is a very important one. We'll be talking about the foundation of the Catholic Church by Jesus Christ. We'll talk about the twelve Apostles, how Christ chose them, how He chose St. Peter to be the head of the early Church, and how He chose St. Peter to be the first Pope. Then, we'll talk about the Four Marks of the Church: how the Catholic Church is One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic, and how we can trace its origin all the way back to Christ, and the Twelve Apostles. We'll also try to cover a little bit about the Papacy, and what is Papal Infallibility. We'll talk about Church history. It's a huge amount of material to cover in a short period of time, but we'll give it our very best shot.

Let me first start off by talking about foundation of the Church by Christ. We know that Christ spent about 33 years physically walking the Earth. Before He left, He decided to establish His Church. He told St. Peter, "You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My Church; and the gates of Hell will never prevail against the Church." Jesus didn't say, "I will build My churches." He said, "I will build My Church." We have to look at "What Church did Christ found?", and "Did Christ actually establish the Church?"

We know that Christ did gather around Himself Twelve Apostles. The word *apostle* means "one who is sent." He had these disciples. A *disciple* is a student, a learner, and these disciples He named Apostles. He said in John, Chapter 20, "As the Father has sent Me, so I send you."

It says, "He gave them power to preach, teach, govern, and to sanctify." He gave them authority. He said, "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved. Whoever does not believe shall be condemned."

Jesus gave the Apostles extraordinary power. Matthew, Chapter 10 says, "And that having summoned His twelve disciples, He gave them power over unclean spirits," which is to do exorcisms to cast out the Devil, to cast out demons if a person is possessed. "He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every kind of disease and infirmity." They even had power to heal.

He gave the Apostles the power to sanctify, to make people holy. This is in Matthew, Chapter 28, "Go therefore, and make disciples of all the nations. Baptize them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

He also gave power to the Apostles to forgive sins. He said in John, Chapter 20, "Christ breathed on the Apostles, and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins

you forgive are forgiven them. Whose sins you retain are retained.” This is very important power – power to absolve sins in the name of Christ.

The Apostles were given power to govern, to rule. He says in Luke, Chapter 10, “He who hears you, hears Me. He who rejects you, rejects Me. He who rejects Me rejects Him who sent Me,” which is the Father. Then Christ, in Chapter 18, says to the Apostles, “Whatever you bind on Earth will be bound in Heaven; whatever you loose on Earth will be loosed in Heaven.”

The power to offer sacrifice, at the Last Supper was another power given to the Apostles. After He instituted the Eucharist, He said, “Do this in remembrance of Me.” He commanded them to continue to offer the Eucharist.

The Lord trained His disciples, His Apostles. He chose Peter among them to be the chief of the Apostles, the Head of the Church. This is in Matthew, Chapter 16, Verse 16, “You are Peter, Cephas,” (rock), “and upon this rock I will build My Church, and the gates of Hell will never prevail against the Church.” That’s one of the reasons why we know that the Church cannot fall into error on issues of Faith and Morals. We have holy people and sinful people as part of the Church. The teachings, the doctrines, of the Church will never change. They’ll always be faithful to the teachings of Christ and the Scriptures. If the Church would change its teachings, then the gates of Hell would prevail against the Church. What if the Church came out and said that “killing is okay, or that rape is okay, or abortion is okay?” The Church would never do that, because the Church can never change its teachings on issues of Faith and Morals. Issues of Faith would be things such as:

- The Trinity
- The Divinity of Christ
- The Incarnation
- The Resurrection

The Church could never come out and say, “Jesus actually never did rise from the Dead.” The Church could never teach that; that would be contradicting an issue of Faith. Nor could the Church come out and say that, “what was wrong morally is now morally acceptable.” If the Church did water down its teachings, then the gates of Hell would prevail against the Church, as the Lord promised. “The gates of Hell,” He says, “will never prevail against the Church.” He also gave Peter the authority, in John Chapter 21, when He said to Peter, “Feed my lambs. Feed My sheep.” “Feed My Lambs” is referring to the people. Christ promised to remain with the Church until the end of time. He said, “The gates of Hell can never destroy the Church.”

Why did Christ found the Church? He founded the Church to bring everyone to Salvation. The Church is God’s instrument of Salvation. It’s His Mystical Body. Christ is the Head. We are the members of His Body. The Church exists to

continue the teachings of Christ, and to apply the fruits of the Sacrifice to all men and women until the end of Time.

The three duties of the Church are:

- To teach
- To govern, and
- To sanctify

To teach people the truth, to govern them, and to help make them holy is why Christ established the Catholic Church 2,000 years ago. We see this on Pentecost Sunday when the Holy Spirit came down upon Mary and the Apostles. It says, "Three thousand were converted that one day." In sales, you call that a very good first day! St. Peter preached, and three thousand were converted. Christ did found a visible institution upon the Apostles. He gave the Apostles the power to teach, to sanctify, and to govern.

We said, first and foremost, is St. Peter. St. Peter is mentioned 195 times in the New Testament, more than all the Apostles combined, because obviously, Peter was the one that Christ would choose to become the Head of the Church. We know that St. Peter was first the Bishop of Antioch, and then he became the Bishop of Rome. St. Peter died in Rome. Since he was the Bishop of Rome, we're called "Roman Catholics." If Peter had died in Antioch, and the Church was begun in Antioch, we'd be called "Antioch Catholics." Since Peter died in Rome, and he was the first Bishop of Rome, we're called "Roman Catholics." I guess since we're traveling between the Monastery, the high school, and the Rectory, we're also "roamin'" Catholics in another way! Hopefully, when we have our permanent church, we won't be traveling as much.

Antioch is where followers of Christ were called *Christians* for the first time. Antioch is also the place where the word *Catholic* was first used for Christians, about the year 100 AD. The word "Catholic" means "universal." Christ founded Christianity, and the Catholic Church. That was the only Christian Church around for 1,500 years.

St. Peter had also traveled throughout Judea, Sumeria, Galilee, Asia, even Greece. His last place that he was Bishop was Rome. Peter was crucified on Vatican Hill in the year 67 AD under the persecution of Nero. When St. Peter was being crucified, he stretched out his hands. They were about to nail him to the cross, and he said, "I am not worthy to die in the same way as my Lord and Savior." So, they turned him upside down, and he was crucified upside down. That's how St. Peter died. It's historically documented in ancient writings.

What happened to the other Twelve Apostles? The other one that's very famous is St. John, called John the Evangelist, John the Beloved, John the Divine, or John the Apostle. He was the Lord's beloved disciple. We know that St. John, after the Lord ascended into Heaven, lived in Ephesus, which is in Asia Minor.

For a while, St. John was banished to the island of Patmos. That's where he wrote the Book of Revelation and the Gospel of John. John lived to be about 100 years of age. He was the youngest of all the Apostles when Christ called him. He was maybe only 16, but when he died he was about 100 years of age. He's the only Apostle that did not die a martyr's death. All the other Apostles shed their blood for Christ. St. Paul was beheaded. St. Peter was crucified upside down. St. John died of love, that of advanced age. There is an ancient story of how they tried to kill John. They tried to throw him in a cauldron of burning oil, but he was unharmed. Eventually, he died in exile.

The next Apostle is St. James. There are two James'. There's James the Greater, and James the Lesser. Maybe one was big and tall; the other one was tiny, perhaps. We don't know. James the Greater was St. John's brother. James and John were brothers, called the "Sons of Thunder," because of their zeal. They wanted to cast down fire and brimstone upon the Samaritans. They wanted the great seats at the right and at the left of Christ in his Kingdom. St. James traveled to spread the Faith all the way to Spain. His relics are in Santiago de Campistello, in Galicia up in northwestern Spain. I've had the privilege of going there and saying Mass at the Tomb of St. James. He was the first Apostle to be martyred. He was martyred in Jerusalem in the year 44 AD. He was beheaded.

Next, there is St. Matthew. St. Matthew preached the Gospel all the way to Ethiopia and to Persia. He's the one who wrote one of the four Gospels. You've all heard of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. St. Matthew was a disciple of Christ.

Then comes St. James the Lesser. He was the first Bishop of Jerusalem. He was killed in the year 63 AD. He was taken by a crowd up to the pinnacle of the Temple and thrown off the Temple.

Next comes St. Andrew. Andrew was the brother of St. Peter. Andrew preached the Gospel all the way to Greece. He was crucified in Greece. He was crucified on an X-shaped cross.

Next was St. Thomas the Apostle. All of us know him as "Doubting Thomas." He went on to preach the Gospel in Persia, and as far as India. There he was martyred. He was pierced by a lance by the king's command.

Then there was St. Philip. Philip went all the way to Phrygia and Sythia. He was crucified at the Hierapolis. He also was crucified for his faith in Christ.

St. Bartholomew, also known as Nathaniel, preached the Gospel after the time of Christ. He went to India, Arabia, and Assyria. He was flayed alive and then crucified in Armenia. You'll sometimes see holy cards of St. Bartholomew holding what looks like parchment, but he's actually holding his skin. You'll see holy cards of that, because he was flayed alive and killed for Christ, dying for Jesus.

St. Simon, which is different than St. Peter (Peter's name was Simon changed to Peter), went to North Africa. He was martyred in Persia.

Then there's St. Jude. He preached the Gospel in Syria. He was martyred in Syria.

Then Matthias; he's the one who replaced Judas. Remember, after Judas hung himself? They had to get another Apostle. They selected between two men. Matthias was chosen to replace Judas. Matthias went to Ethiopia. He was martyred there.

I guess we would call St. Paul the 13th Apostle. St. Paul was converted to Christianity in the year 34. He was called "The Apostle to the Gentiles," because he went to the pagan world. He traveled all over: Seleucia, Cyprus, Asia Minor, Phrygia, Galacia, Macedonia, Thessalonica, Athens, Corinth, all the way to Rome. Then he went to Spain and the East. Then he returned to Rome, where he was martyred in the year 67. St. Paul, because he was a Roman citizen, could not be crucified, so they beheaded him.

Notice that every Apostle died for Christ. Every one died because of his belief in the Resurrection. We talked a few classes ago about the Resurrection of Christ, and how the Tomb was empty, and the Body of Christ was gone. The only explanation is that Christ Rose from the Dead. There's no way that these scared Apostles would have been able to steal the Body, hide it, and then go out and proclaim that Jesus Christ is Risen from the Dead. The fact that every one gave his life for Christ reveals that how hard it is for somebody to die for the truth, how hard it is to die for a lie. These Apostles did not die for a lie; they died for the Truth, because they all saw the risen Christ, and every one gave their lives for Christ.

The Apostles received the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. They went throughout the world to teach the Faith, and to baptize. Remember that these Apostles were the first Bishops of the Catholic Church. Jesus said, "As the Father has sent Me, so I send you." He chose them. These Apostles also ordained others called *presbyters*, or "priests," and deacons. They were to help the Bishops in their duty.

Take a look again about the Primacy of St. Peter. Christ gave St. Peter special power as Head of the Church. Remember his name was Simon? Christ changed his name to "Cephas," in Greek, which means "the Rock." Christ spoke Aramaic, and He said, "You are Cephas, and upon this Cephas I will build My Church." The Lord did this at Caesarea Philippi. Caesarea Philippi is an area about 60 miles north of the Sea of Galilee. There's a huge rock formation, about 600 feet wide and 300 feet tall, and upon this rock was built a pagan temple to the god Pan. This is the backdrop where Christ took the Apostles and St. Peter. At

Caesarea Philippi, you can almost picture the scene; this huge rock with the pagan temple built over it.

Christ said to the Apostles and to Peter, "Who do they say that I am?" The Apostles said, "Some say you're John the Baptist. To others, you're Elijah; you're Jeremiah, or one of the Prophets." Then he said, "Who do you say that I am?" Everyone was silent, except one voice rang out, the voice of St. Peter. Peter was inspired by the Holy Spirit, and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God." Jesus said, "You're right. No one has revealed this to you. Only my heavenly Father has revealed this to you. For my part I say to you, thou art Peter, Cephas, and upon you I will build my Church. The gates of Hell will never prevail against the Church." Then He says something even more powerful: "And I give you the Keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. Whatever you bind on Earth shall be bound in Heaven. Whatever you loose on Earth shall be loosed in Heaven."

The power of the Keys is an amazing authority that He gave to St. Peter. Keys are a symbol of authority, the Keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. If you give somebody your car keys, you give them authority to drive your car. If you give somebody your house keys, if you go on vacation, you give them authority to watch over your home, to let people in, for example. It is amazing that Christ gave Peter the Keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. In John, Chapter 20, Jesus said to all the Apostles, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them. Whose sins you retain are retained." All the Apostles were given the power to absolve sins, then all the Bishops, then priests ordained by those Bishops. To Peter alone was given the Keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. We call that the Primacy of Peter.

It doesn't mean that Peter was sinless the rest of his life, because he even denied Christ. After he denied Christ, and was forgiven, Jesus said to him, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these?" He said, "Yes Lord, You know that I love You." Then He said, "Feed My lambs." He said a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" He said, "Yes Lord, You know that I love You." He said, "Feed My lambs." Then a third time He said, "Simon, do you love Me?" He said, "Lord, You know all things. You know that I love You." Jesus said, "Feed My sheep." Christ gave St. Peter the power to be the First Shepherd, the First Pope. The word *Pope* comes from the Latin word meaning "father." He's the Holy Father, the Pope.

Christ entrusted to Peter the whole flock, making him the head visible shepherd. Remember that Christ is the Head of the Church; but Christ was ascending into Heaven, so He had to choose a visible Head of the Church, and that would be St. Peter and his successors.

In Luke, Chapter 22, Jesus says, "Simon, I have prayed for you, that your Faith may not fail. And do thou, once you have been converted, strengthen your brethren." Christ knew Peter was going to deny Him, which Peter did. After Peter

repented, and told Christ three times that He loved Him, to make up for the three denials, then he was reinstated as Head of the Church. "I have prayed for you, and now it's your job to strengthen your brothers."

Every society needs a visible head. Christ is the invisible Head of the Church. St. Peter and his successors are the visible Head of the Church. Remember that in the Bible, Peter's name always comes first among all the lists of the Apostles. Judas' name always comes last. Peter is called the "First Apostle." He's the one who oversaw the election of Matthias to replace Judas. He preached the first sermon on Pentecost. You can see that Peter was clearly the Head of the Church. He admitted the first converts from Judaism, as well as from Paganism. He worked the first miracle. He gave the man who was lame from birth the power to walk. He even gave out the first Penance. That's when Ananias had lied and cheated; he was rebuked by St. Peter. He cast out the heretic called Simon Magus. You might remember that as the Sin of Gethsemane, because Simon the Magician wanted to buy and sell in the Apostle's power.

St. Peter made the first visitation of the churches. When Peter spoke in Acts, Chapter 15, at the First Council of Jerusalem, it says, "Everyone remained silent. Everyone submitted to what he said." It says, "After a long debate, Peter got up and said, 'But we believe that we are saved through grace of the Lord Jesus Christ.' And the whole meeting quieted down."

After his conversion, St. Paul delivered himself to St. Peter. St. Peter was the first Pope. Another word for Pope is *pontiff*, the Roman Pontiff. The word pontiff comes from the word meaning "a bridge builder." The Roman Pontiff is the bridge builder between us and the Heavenly Father.

What is it when we talk about *Papal Infallibility*? The word "papal" means "Pope." If something is infallible, it means it's without error. Some people confuse it. They think it means papal inflammability or something like that; they can't catch the Pope on fire. It doesn't mean those things. Infallibility means that the Holy Spirit would not allow the Pope to teach error on issues of Faith and Morals. It does not mean that the Pope can't make mistakes, because obviously, a Pope could make mistakes. If he says, "The Redskins are going to win this Sunday," and they don't, that doesn't come under infallibility because that is not an issue of Faith and Morals. If the Pope says, "Play this number in the lottery, because it's going to win." I wish that was the case; I would buy some tickets for our parish. It doesn't include things like the weather. The Pope can't predict the weather. The Pope can't predict future events. The Pope can still make mistakes. What it means, is that when the Pope is teaching as the Pope, as the Head of the Church, the Holy Spirit will prevent him from teaching errors on issues of Faith and Morals.

I mentioned before that issues of Faith could be things like the Pope coming out and saying that there are four Persons in the Blessed Trinity. He could never

teach that. He could never come out and say Jesus never rose from the Dead, or Christ is not present in the Eucharist. Some issues of Morals that the Pope could say are like homosexual activity is morally acceptable, or abortion, or some of these issues are morally acceptable. The Pope could never change these issues. If he tried, the Holy Spirit would prevent him. In 2,000 years, the Popes have never taught anything erroneous. As individuals, they might have had some incorrect teachings, but they never taught it as the Pope. For example, there was one Pope, Pope John XXII. In his personal opinion, he wasn't sure whether Hell was eternal. He thought it might end at one point. That was his own personal view as an individual. He obviously never could teach that, because that would contradict the teachings of Christ and the Church; whereas Christ said that Hell was eternal and that Heaven is eternal. Remember that, in order for the Pope to speak infallibly, it has to be on an issue of Faith and Morals.

As I mentioned, on topics like the weather or sports, he's not infallible. Plus, the Pope has to be speaking with what is called *Ex Cathedra*, which means "from the chair." The word *cathedral* is the name of the church where the Bishop lives and has his chair. This word cathedral means "chair." "From the chair" is "speaking from the chair of his authority." It's not a physical chair. It's not some special wooden chair that the Pope has to sit in, like a throne or something. He doesn't have to be sitting in a chair to speak infallibly. You'll see this word *Ex Cathedra*, which means "from the chair of his authority." That means when he's speaking to the whole Church, the Universal Church. Papal Infallibility means the Holy Spirit will protect the Church and the Pope from teaching errors on issues of Faith and Morals, when he's speaking as Pope to the whole Church from his chair of authority, or from his seat of authority. When the Pope is walking in the gardens talking to a Cardinal, not everything he says coming out of his mouth is going to be true. When he's speaking to the Universal Church the Holy Spirit will guarantee that he will not teach error. Never in 2,000 years has a Pope taught error on issues of Faith and Morals when he's speaking as Pope.

This does not mean that the Pope will be *indefectible*, which means "without sin." We know that Popes can sin, because they're human; they're not divine. St. Peter said, even after he was Pope, remember Christ said, "You are Peter. Upon this rock I will build my Church." A few months later, Peter said, "I swear to you, I do not know the Man." He denied Christ three times. It doesn't mean the Popes are going to be sinless. Some Popes have sinned. Obviously, I'm sure all of us have sinned in at least some way. Out of the 265 Popes, we have had some immoral Popes. I guess you would call them, five or six out of 265, which is not a bad ratio. Even one is one too many. There were Popes that had sins that were pretty well known: some because of greed or avarice, others because of immoral life style. Even those immoral Popes, the Popes that were bad (the five or six out of 265), even they never taught erroneously on issues of Faith and Morals. That goes to show more clearly that the Holy Spirit is guiding the Church so that the Church cannot fall into error.

(A question). Members of the Church can sin, and unfortunately they do sin. The Church did a tremendous amount of good to save victims of the Holocaust, and save hundreds of thousands of Jews; I believe at least 600,000 was one figure I heard. Somebody else said 700,000. Could the Church have done more during the Holocaust? Yes. Could we be doing more to stop the holocaust of the unborn babies that are being killed right now? The answer is yes. I mean, you can always do more. When the Church did speak out against Hitler and what was happening, the persecution got even worse. The Church tried to help out, sort of, behind the scenes. This booklet in your handouts is called "The Truth About Pius XII and the Holocaust." It answers that question. This goes through the historical records of what happened. You can read a little bit more about what the Church did do during the Holocaust to help save the lives of a tremendous amount of people.

One of the things that people don't realize is that the chief Rabbi of Rome, the leader of Rome, converted to the Catholic Faith, Rabbi Zolli. He converted to the Catholic Faith after WWII, because of his experience and because of his debt of gratitude for how much Pope Pius XII did do to save as many Jews as he could. You would not get the chief Rabbi of Rome converted to the Catholic Faith had not the Church done a great amount of good to help protect the Jews and to give them safety.

The Church has apologized for many things: how they treated the Jews in the past, how they treated the Muslims, what happened during some of the Crusades. But those matters aren't issues of Faith and Morals. Those are issues of the personal sins of members of the Church - for example, the Crusades. They started out with noble reasons and a noble purpose. These lands, like Jerusalem and Bethlehem, were under Christian occupation – the Christians lived there peacefully. Then the Muslims, coming up from Northern Africa, began to be very aggressive. They came in and took over Jerusalem, killed the Christians, took over Bethlehem, and were very aggressive. They were coming up. Christians could no longer go there on pilgrimage. The Crusades were started to win back those territories that had belonged to the Christians. They started out with a noble purpose. However, because of the greed of some of the Crusaders, for example, instead of going to Jerusalem, they went and sacked Constantinople, which was a Christian city on one of the Crusades. They pillaged, burned, and stole all sorts of gold vessels and artwork and things. The Church has apologized for the Crusades, because a lot of them didn't turn out as they should have. In theory, those were just wars, but they weren't carried out always in a just way.

The Church has also apologized because in some countries, the Jews were persecuted, or the Muslims were persecuted. The Church has apologized for that. Again, these aren't issues of Faith and Morals. It has to do with the sins of the members of the Church; that's how I would describe it. Just as St. Peter sinned, and was forgiven by Christ; unfortunately we've had some points in history where members of the Church sinned; they were very greedy. Even at the

time of Martin Luther, some of the Bishops and priests were trying to sell indulgences, trying to make money on them, rather than the way indulgences should be done. Martin Luther rose up and broke away from the Church. It doesn't mean that the members of the Church have always been perfect. The Church has both saints and sinners.

The way to realize that is to look at the Twelve Apostles. These were the hand-picked Twelve by Christ. Even in the early Church, among the Twelve Apostles, St. Peter denied Christ three times; Judas betrayed Him; and all the Apostles ran away at the Crucifixion. Even among the Apostles, there were sinners. One thing to remember, the Church is both human and divine. The Church is *divine*, which means that it can never be destroyed – it was founded by Christ. The Church is *human* – it's made up of us, and we have human weakness. We have sins. Because of that, the Church is both the beautiful, pristine, pure Bride of Christ, but it's also a society that has sinners in it. That's why the Pope did apologize maybe for the Church not doing more during the Holocaust. Looking back, hindsight is 20/20. You can always look back and think, "They should have done more; they should have done more." When they were involved in it, they figured the best way to help save the Jews was to do it behind the scenes, instead of publicly coming out, because that just made the persecution worse.

If you take a look at your handouts, I'd like to go through this one. It's called "The Timeline of Christianity." I want to cover the Church's teaching about what's called the Four Marks of the Church, or the four qualities that have to be present for a Church to have been founded by Christ. These are the Four Marks; it has to be *One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic*. If you notice in your "Timeline of Christianity," Christ died around the year 33. He founded one Church, and that Church existed for 1,500 years before the other denominations started, before they broke off from the Catholic Church. The Catholic Church is 2,000 years old.

These are the Four Marks of the Church. If you look at the very bottom, you'll see the "*One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic*" Faith. St. Paul says, "One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism." How is the Catholic Church "One?" Because we practice one Faith. We're all united under one visible head, which is the Pope, who stands representing Christ. We have one set of doctrines, beliefs, and teachings that exist throughout the world. We have one set of prayers, like the Our Father, the Hail Mary, the Glory Be. If you go to Mass anywhere in the world, it's the same Mass. It might be in Spanish, Italian, English, or German, but it's one. We do have one leader, and that's the Pope, who represents Christ.

Then the Church is "Holy," because its founder, Jesus Christ, is holy. It teaches holy doctrines, and enables us to become holy. We know that Christ is the Son of God. He founded the Church and He gave us seven Sacraments. We're very blessed as Catholics, not just to have two Sacraments or four Sacraments, but actually to have all seven Sacraments. The teachings of the Church can make us holy, if we follow them, which is basically following the Ten Commandments. We

have a beautiful example in the lives of the saints. All these holy men and women who lived the teachings of the Faith became holy by living them out - people like Mother Teresa, St. Francis of Assisi, the Apostles, etc. When it says "holy," it does not mean that all members of the Church are holy, obviously. These were all works in progress; we know God isn't finished with us yet.

The Church is "Catholic." The word Catholic means "universal." It says that the Church is universal in three ways: through time, through place, and through fact. You'll notice it says here, "In time, because from the minute Our Lord commissioned the Apostles, down to the present, the Church has existed since the time of Christ." It's universal in place, because it exists in every country. It's also universal in fact, because it's found in more countries than any other religion.

You'll notice in the Church that there's one Pope. There are about 120 Cardinals, more or less. There are maybe 2,000 Bishops. There's about one billion lay people, about one billion members of the Church. Those billion members of the Church exist in every country of the world. The Catholic Church is universal in three ways: in time, in place, and in fact. It's in every country of the world. It is the largest Christian Church, and it will last until the end of time.

The Church is "Apostolic." That means it can trace itself back to the Twelve Apostles. It wasn't started in the 1700's, or the 19th century, or the 3rd century. It was founded by Christ upon the Apostles, who were the first priests and Bishops of the Church. Remember that these Bishops, these Apostles, ordained other men, namely the priests and deacons. For example, when I was ordained, I was ordained by Bishop Keating, who was ordained by a previous Bishop, by a previous Bishop, all the way back to the Twelve Apostles. My understanding is that he could trace his ordination all the way back to the Apostle Thomas. Every Bishop can trace who ordained him, who ordained him, all the way back to one of the Twelve Apostles. It's a remarkable thing. It says Pope John Paul II was the 264th Bishop of Rome.

On the other side of your sheet is "Origins and Divisions of Protestantism." I found this in Life magazine. It says copyright 1947. Obviously, there's a lot more divisions now, because a lot more time has gone by. Currently, there are 30,000 different Christian denominations in the world. They all broke off of churches, that broke off of other churches, that broke off of at one time, the Catholic Church.

You see here, you have the Catholic Church. In the year 1534, Henry VIII started the Anglican Church, or the Episcopalian Church as we call it in America. Henry VIII was a Catholic. In fact, he was called "A Great Defender of the Faith" at one point. As you know, he was married to Catherine of Aragon. She was not able to provide a male heir, so after 23 years of marriage, he divorced Catherine, and married a younger woman, Anne Boleyn, and tried to have children through her. Because he was living in adultery, which is what the Bible says, "He who

divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery,” he wanted the Pope to grant a dispensation, to say it was okay. The Pope wouldn’t do it, so Henry VIII broke England off of the Catholic Church. England was almost entirely a Catholic country at the time; but because of Henry’s own sin, and his anger at the Church, he broke away. All of England was lost to the Catholic Church, and became Anglican, the Church of England, or Episcopalian. The Anglican Church was really founded because of adultery, because of Henry VIII not wanting to remain faithful to his wife, and breaking off with the Catholic Church.

Martin Luther, in 1517, was, as you know, a Catholic monk, a Catholic priest, Augustinian. Martin Luther saw many problems in the Church. He saw some abuses, like the sale of indulgences. But Luther had other issues, a lot of other problems. He was very scrupulous. He had emotional problems. If you read history, he left the priesthood, married an ex-nun, and they basically broke off. His followers became known as Lutherans. That’s the year 1517. Martin Luther was a Catholic, and broke off from the Church. Martin Luther obviously had some correct ideas; some of the Bishops and priests should not have been trying to make money by selling indulgences. However, the answer is not to break off and start a new religion; it’s to reform.

John Calvin started the Calvinist religion. From them came the Presbyterians. The other denominations were started in the 1520’s, groups like the Baptists, the Mennonites, and the Quakers. All of them kept breaking off, one after another. For example, from the Church of England came the Methodist Church, in 1739. The Salvation Army broke off of them in 1880; they do consider themselves a religion as well. This is just a little bit of a glimpse; it’s not, obviously, the entire group of denominations. It gives you an idea of how they broke off of the Catholic Church at one point in time.

The other handout, which I think is very interesting, is the one with the list of all the Popes. This is a neat chart, because it has all the Popes on there, except Pope Benedict, because this goes back over a year now. I like to call this one “The Title and Deed of the Catholic Church,” an unbroken list of Popes (Pontiffs) from Peter to today. St Peter was the first Pope, the prince of the Apostles, who was martyred in 67.

The next one was Linus. If you take a look, he’s on the left-hand side, about half-way up. He was elected after St. Peter died. These Popes are not related – they’re not sons, or brothers, of the Popes. They’re men that were elected. After one Pope died, then the rest of the Bishops would get together and elect one among themselves to be the next successor. Linus was after Peter. Then Cletus, then Clement, all the way down.

Next to the name is the date of their death, or when they stepped down as Pope. If you see the letter “M” next to the name, that means they were martyred for Christ; they died for Christ. Notice that every Pope was a martyr from St. Peter all

the way through the 300's. Does anybody know what happened in 315, why the Popes weren't martyred anymore? Because Constantine became the Roman Emperor, and he was a Christian. So, it was then legal to be a Christian. For the first 300 years, it was illegal, generally, to be a Christian. Sometimes the persecutions were very fierce; sometimes they weren't that bad. But notice, every Pope was martyred for Christ – the first 33 Popes. What I like about this is that you can see all the Popes, down to John Paul II. When this was made, he was still living, but we could put the date of his death there and put Pope Benedict, who would be the successor of St. Peter.

In the very bottom right corner it says, "Out of the 261 Popes, from St. Peter to Pius XII, who was back in 1958, 78 of these Popes are saints. That's remarkable, isn't it? I think that's amazing – that out of 265, 78 were so holy in their personal life they were canonized by the Church as saints. Also:

- 33 were martyred.
- 7 are Blessed (that means they're Beatified, on their way to becoming saints).
- 105 Popes are from Rome.
- 107 are from other parts of Italy.
- 15 are from France.
- 9 are from Greece.
- 7 are German.
- 5 are Asian.
- 3 are African.
- 3 are Spanish.
- 2 are Dalmacians.
- 1 is Hebrew.
- 1 from Thracia.
- 1 is Dutch.
- 1 is Portuguese.
- 1 is English.
- 1 is Polish.
- Another one would be German, so there would be 8 Germans now.

That's an amazing list. As you can see, the Popes came from many different countries. What I also like about this is that it gives you an overview of Church history. Under every section, it tells you some of the things that occurred in history that occurred during that time period. For example, under the first set of Popes, you have the spread of Christianity. The city of Jerusalem was destroyed. The Temple was destroyed by the Romans in 70 AD. Pompei was destroyed in 79 AD by the volcano; then Rome began to decline. In the next 200 years of history, you had Constantine making Christianity legal. Paganism was on the decline. St. Patrick went to Ireland and converted all of Ireland to the Catholic Faith. Venice was founded in 452 AD.

In the next section, France began to develop and become a Christian country. In the English conquest of Britain, St. Augustine of Canterbury was sent to convert England. The next section of history was the rise of the Muslims. The Saracens conquered Egypt, and Muslims tried to conquer Spain. These were also the days of Charlemagne.

The next section has the decay of the Frankish Empire, and the division of Europe into Germany, France, and Italy.

In the next period of history, during Vladimir the Great, Christianity went into Russia. Muslims invaded India. From 1000 – 1200 AD was the decline of the Byzantine Empire. The Mongols in Europe were ruled by Ghengis Khan. The Magna Carta was signed. From 1200 – 1400 AD, the House of Commons existed, the discovery of African Coast occurred, and the printing press was started.

In the next section, Columbus discovered America in 1492. The Sistine Chapel was painted by Michelangelo. The Spanish Armada was defeated.

From the 1660's to the present, the Boston Tea Party happened, the Declaration of Independence was signed, and we saw the rise of Communism, Nazism, and Fascism. It's a neat list of the Popes, and again it tells you some of the big events that occurred during that time.

I also wanted to mention a few other points about Church history. Please find "The Living Church" handout. This is neat, because it divides the Church into different sections. Even in the picture it says, "Total number of Catholics in the world: 425 million." This was taken from The Catechism back in the 1940's or 1950's. As you know, now it's about one billion Catholics throughout the world. The Church has doubled in the last 50 years.

The first 400 years was the Age of Persecution. In the first 300 years were persecutions under Nero and Diocletian. But then, Constantine came and made Christianity legal in 315. That was a major event.

The second 400 years were the Barbarian invasions, of the Huns, the Goths, the Vandals, and the Visigoths. They started moving from the North into Europe. Rome was sacked and pillaged. In other big events during that time, St. Patrick went to Ireland, St. Augustine went to Canterbury, and St. Boniface went to Germany.

The next 400 years was the Age of Islam, as they began in North Africa. Then, through "Conversion by the Sword," they converted a great part of Asia, North Africa, Spain, and the Mediterranean. They even came up as far as France. There was a nine-day battle in 732, where Charles Montel defeated the Muslims at Tours. That stopped the taking over of France. Of course, nowadays France is

almost (I don't know what percentage of France) is Muslim; now it's a huge amount in France. Then, the Muslims entered and sacked Rome. They even sacked St. Peter's. Jerusalem went into the hands of the Muslims in the 11th century, and that's why the Crusades were started. The Christian armies went to free the Holy Lands. There were seven Crusades all together, from 1095 – 1254. There were many great leaders: Godfrey, Frederick, Richard the Lionhearted, King Louis of France – they all went on Crusades.

The next 400 years featured the Christianization of Europe. There were attacks on the Real Presence, which is when people denied the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. The Greek Schism also occurred.

Because of the immorality among Christians of the time, there was the Protestant Revolt. It mentions here about Martin Luther, an Augustinian monk in 1517, made an open attack on the doctrine of indulgences. He began to propagate his teachings. A lot of it was political. Some of the princes decided to follow Luther; others remained faithful to the Catholic Church. Luther said, "You can get rid of the authority of the Church. All you need is the Bible. That's the only rule of Faith." That was one of Luther's teachings. The revolt spread from Germany to other countries. In Switzerland, John Calvin began, and Switzerland became Calvinistic. In Scotland, you have John Knox, who converted to Protestantism, which became known as the Presbyterian Church. In England, Henry VIII decided to change wives, and brought about the Anglican Church. Then Denmark, Holland, Norway, and Sweden all became Protestant, because when the ruler of a country converted to Protestantism, the whole country became Protestant. If the ruler stayed Catholic, the country stayed Catholic.

Out of the Protestant Revolt (which really wasn't a Reformation, because they broke off of the Church; it was more of a revolt). It wasn't a true reformation; the Catholic Church began to reform itself with the Council of Trent. Then, the explorers went out: the Portuguese and the Spaniards went out; and many places were discovered. There were many places where the Catholic Faith was brought to: South America, Latin America, Mexico, and parts of Africa. New lands were discovered, and even though the Catholic Church lost millions of people in Europe because of the Protestant Revolt, it gained millions of people by people converting to the Catholic Faith, such as when Mary appeared to the people of Mexico in the 1500's, most of Mexico became Catholic.

In the last 400 years, it says, many people returned to the Church. The Americas came into the Church. Russia and places like that continued to grow in the Faith. Then, the Russian Revolution was very detrimental to the Church, because of the persecutions. It mentions that at present there are 30,000 priests and 60,000 sisters. Of course, that's a lot different now. Today there are 300,000 priests throughout the world, and as I mentioned, about 2000 – 3000 Bishops around the world.

(A question). It's always been the Tradition that when a man is elected Pope, he chooses another name. It's probably based upon the fact that Simon's name was changed to Peter. Some of the Popes kept their names in the early days, probably like Linus, Cletus, Clement, and Sixtus. That was probably their name. As time went by, if somebody was elected Pope, they (if you would take a look at the list), 23 chose the name John. Sixteen have now chosen Benedict. There have been 13 Pope Leo's , 12 Pope Pius', six Paul's, and two John Paul's.

It became the custom, when a Pope was elected, especially in recent years, to choose the name of previous Popes he really admired. For example, many of them just took the name, like when Pope Pius XI died, the next Pope was Pius XII. But then, John XXIII reached back into history and took John XXIII. That was a big shock. After that, Pope Paul didn't pick John XXIV, he chose Paul, maybe because he liked Paul V. John Paul II decided to choose two names, the first time ever in History that a Pope chose two names. He took John and Paul, because he wanted to continue the work of John, at the Vatican Council, and the work of Pope Paul.

Pope Benedict probably chose that name because reaching back into history, St. Benedict was the saint that helped to rechristianize Europe. Maybe that was in the mind of the Pope. Pope Benedict loves the sacred Liturgy, and St. Benedict was a saint who loved liturgy. The Benedictines are very big on the Liturgy. The Pope would normally choose a name, just like you get to pick a name when you get confirmed, you get to pick the name of a saint you like. Some pick St. Francis; some pick St. Clare, or St. Teresa. The Popes get to pick a saint that they admire, or a previous Pope that they admire. That's their mentality on that.

(A question). After Judas died, what happened? The early Church met in a *Council*. A Council is when a group of people get together. They had to replace Judas. The 11 Apostles gathered together in a Council. There were two men that were in the running. Then, the Council voted, and they chose Matthias to replace Judas. That Tradition has kept on for 2,000 years. When Peter died, the early Church got together in a Council and elected Linus. When Linus died, they got together and elected Cletus. When he died, Clement was elected. When Pope John Paul II died, the same thing happened. All the 120 Cardinals go to Rome. They choose one among themselves to be the next Pope. It's really from apostolic times. It's continued the same way for 2,000 years. Christ must have set it up that way. He's the only one who hand-picked St. Peter, but since Christ went up to Heaven, He leaves it up to the authority of the Church to do that.

Very quickly, let's take a look at these other handouts. This one is by Christopher Dawson. It's called "The Six Ages of the Catholic Church." On the back, it shows the rise and fall of the Church over the years. Again, the Church will be here until the end of time.

This one is interesting too; it is “The Timeline of Christianity.” The reason why we put this one in here is because it also includes the Eastern Orthodox Churches: the Greek Orthodox, and the Russian Orthodox. They broke off of the Catholic Church around the year 900 AD. Originally, there was with Photius, breaking off in the late 800’s, and then they came back in union; and from 1054 on, they’ve broken off with the Catholic Church. If you have really good eyesight, you can read the names of all these different denominations and religions that broke off.

The one thing I think I forgot to mention is on the back of one of your handouts. I think it’s on the back of “The Popes.” It’s this one called “How Old is Your Church?” This just gives you the names of each of the founders of the religions, and what year they were started. It’s interesting – Presbyterians, John Knox, 1560; Anglicans, Henry VIII, 1534; the Baptists, 1605; Methodists, 1744; Mormons, 1829; Salvation Army, 1865; Jehovah’s Witness, founded within the last 50 years.

The other articles I’ll just mention. It’s called “St. Peter and the Keys.” I highly recommend if you get a chance to read this. It talks about the theology behind Jesus giving St. Peter the Keys. “The Triumph of the Church?” is the list of all the Councils, and the list of all the heresies that have started since the beginning. It is fascinating to see that, even from the very beginning, even during the Bible times, people were breaking off of the one, true Church founded by Christ.

Historically, it’s one of the great reasons to become Catholic, to become a member of the Church that Christ founded. In a lot of ways, it’s going back to your family roots, because at one point all your great, great, great grandparents were Catholic. All of Europe was Catholic until the 1500’s. Eventually, people broke off, and started Lutherans, Presbyterians, and Methodists. The great thing about this is that you can go back to the Faith of your Fathers, back to the Faith founded by Jesus Christ.