

# ***The Mystery of the Church***

*Lumen Gentium*  
\*CCC 772

## ***The Mystery of Man's Union With God***



*...Thus He chose us in  
Christ before the  
world was made to be  
holy and blameless  
before him in love,  
marking us out for  
himself beforehand, to  
be adopted sons,  
through Jesus Christ...*

*~Ephesians 1:3-14~*

### ***Questions to consider....***

- *What is the Church?*
- *Who is the Church?*
- *When was the Church founded?*
- *Why do we have/need a Church?*



# ***“Church”***



- *Ekklesia* -- e-ka-lein or *Kyriake* -- *Kirche*
- *Convocation* – calling together what belongs to the Lord.

1. *Liturgical Assembly*
2. *Local Community*
3. *Universal Community*



CCC 751-752

## ***Images of the Mystery***



## ***His Body***

## ***The Reality of the Mystery***



ZDINAK, Bill  
In His Image



## ***His Bride***



## *His Body*



- *“Saul, Saul! Why do you persecute me?”*
- *“Whatsoever you do to the least, you do to me.”*
- *“Lo, I will be with you all days even to the end of the world.”*
- *I no longer live, me, but Christ liveth in me.”*

## *His Body*



*For as the body is one  
and has many members;  
yet are one body: So also  
is Christ. For in one  
Spirit were we all  
baptized into one body,  
whether Jews or Gentiles,  
whether slave or free:  
and in one Spirit we have  
all been made to drink.  
For the body also is not  
one member, but many.*

*1 Cor 12:12-31*

*Husbands, love your wives, as Christ also  
loved the church and sacrificed himself for her:  
That he might sanctify her, washing her in  
cleansing water with a form of words  
so that when he took  
the Church to himself  
she would be glorious,  
with no spot or  
wrinkle; holy and  
faultless.*

*Eph. 5:25-27*



*His Bride*

## ***"Mother of Christ's Body"***

*"Believing" is an ecclesial act. The Church's faith precedes, engenders, supports and nourishes our faith. The Church is the mother of all believers."*

*"No one can have God as Father who does not have the Church as Mother"*

*(St. Cyprian, De unit. 6: PL 4, 519).*



***His Bride***

CCC 169; 181; 1163; 1167;

## ***Trinitarian Love Story***

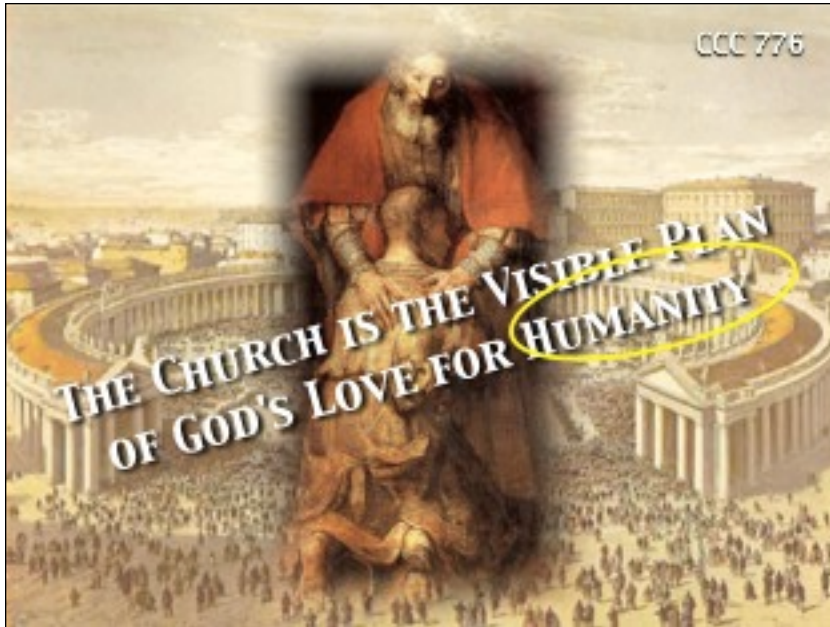
- *Born in the Father's Heart* CCC 759
- *Foreshadowed at Creation* CCC 760
- *Prepared in the Old Testament* CCC 761
- *Instituted by Christ* CCC 763 ff
- *Revealed by the Holy Spirit* CCC 767
- *Perfected in Glory* CCC 769

***A Plan Born in  
the Father's Heart***

CCC 758-760

**That ALL people may be reconciled with Him.**





## OLD TESTAMENT Preparation Covenantal Communion

- "You are free to eat of all the trees except the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil lest you die." *Gen. 2:16*
- "I shall make you a great nation." *Gen. 12:2*
- "You shall be a kingdom of priests, a holy nation." *Ex. 19:6*
- "I will be your God and you will be my people." *Lev. 26*
- "I will make you a light to the nations." *Is. 49:6*
- "Behold these shall come from afar, and behold these from the north and from the sea, and these from the south country." *Is. 49:12*



**"People of God"**

CCC 761-762

## NEW TESTAMENT Institution Everlasting Covenant

CCC 763-769; 1340

*"The Kingdom of Heaven is close at hand." - Mt. 10:7*

*"He appointed twelve; they were to be his companions and to be sent out to proclaim the message, with power to drive out devils."*  
Mt. 10:1-16

*Go, therefore, make disciples of all nations; - Mt. 28:19-20*



## NEW TESTAMENT Institution Everlasting Covenant

CCC 763-769; 1340

*"The Kingdom of  
Heaven is close at  
hand." - Mt. 10:5-7*

*"There will be one flock,  
one shepherd." - Jn. 10:16*

*Go, therefore, make  
disciples of all  
nations; - Mt. 28:19-20*

*"He appointed  
twelve; they  
were to be his  
companions and  
to be sent out to  
proclaim the  
message, with  
power to drive  
out devils."*  
Mt. 10:1-16

*"When I am lifted up, I will draw all people to myself." - Jn. 12:32*

## Everlasting Covenant

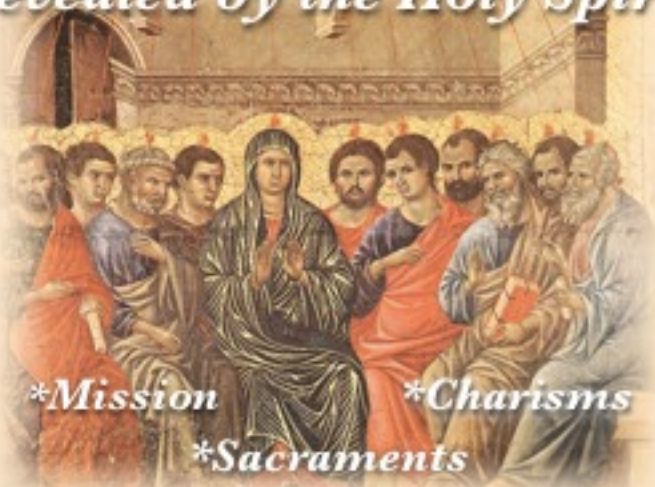


- In order to leave them a pledge of (His) love, in order never to depart from his own and to make them sharers in his Passover, he instituted the Eucharist as the memorial of His death and Resurrection, and commanded his apostles to celebrate it until his return.
- "Is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ?" - 1 Cor. 10:16b

**"Mystical Body of Christ"**

CCC 766; 1337-40; 478

## Revealed by the Holy Spirit



**\*Mission**

**\*Charisms**

**\*Sacraments**





## *The Spirit Gives Life to the Church*

### **Mission:**

- ***Only through the Holy Spirit can the Church fulfill Christ's mandate to "make disciples of all nations."***



## *The Spirit Gives Life to the Church*

### **Sacraments**

- ***Only through the Holy Spirit can the Church give to us GRACE -- the very Life of God!***



## *The Spirit Gives Life to the Church*

### **Charisms:**

- ***Only through the Holy Spirit can the Church teach, govern, prophecy, heal and faithfully proclaim and preserve from corruption the Deposit of Faith.***

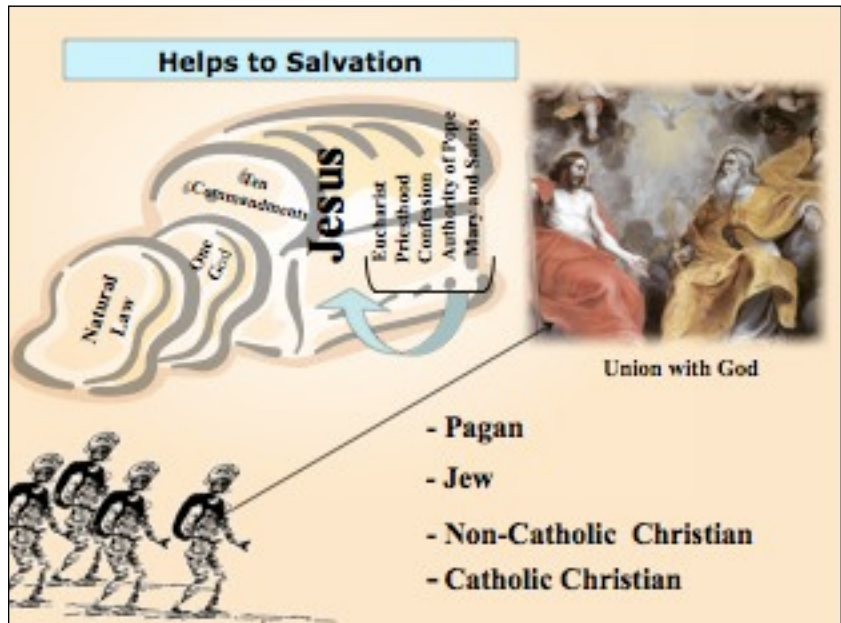


# ***“Universal Sacrament of Salvation”***

- *“The Church not only gives us the seven sacraments, but She is a sacrament for both contains and communicates the invisible grace She signifies.”*
- *(Through Her) Christ is manifesting and actualizing the mystery of God’s love for men.”*
- *“Extra Ecclesiam, nulla salus.” St. Cyprian 3rd century*



CCC 774-780; 836; 846





***One Mediator of Grace  
One Dispenser of that Grace***

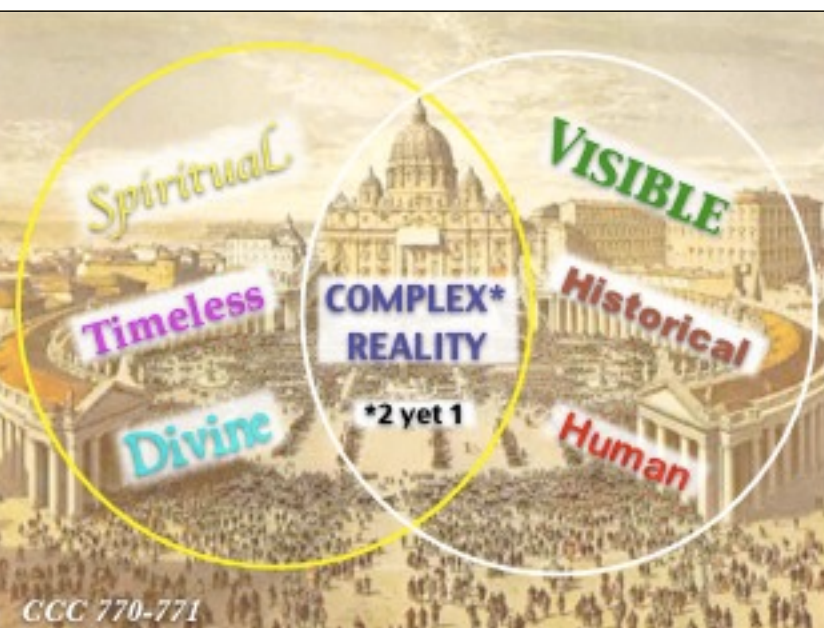


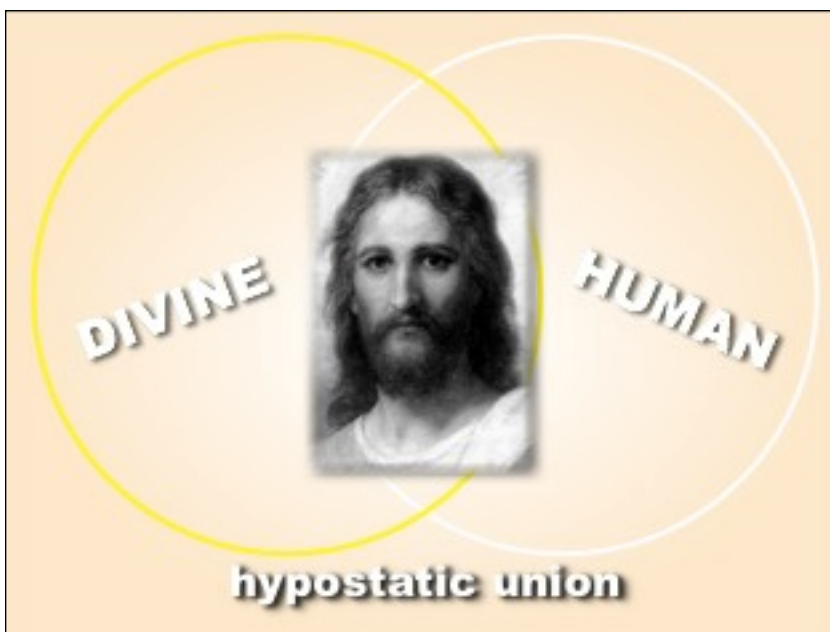
***God's Gift to the World!***

***The Mystery of the Church***



***The Mystery of Man's Union  
With God***





***I am black but beautiful,***

*O you daughters of Jerusalem, as the tents of  
Cedar, as the curtains of Solomon.*

*Do not consider me that I  
am brown, because the sun  
has altered my color: the  
sons of my mother have  
fought against me, they  
have made me the keeper  
in the vineyards: my own  
vineyard I have not kept.*



***His Bride***

*Song of Songs 1:5*



## ***Perfected in Glory***



## ***Perfected in Glory***



**HUSBAND**

**WIFE**



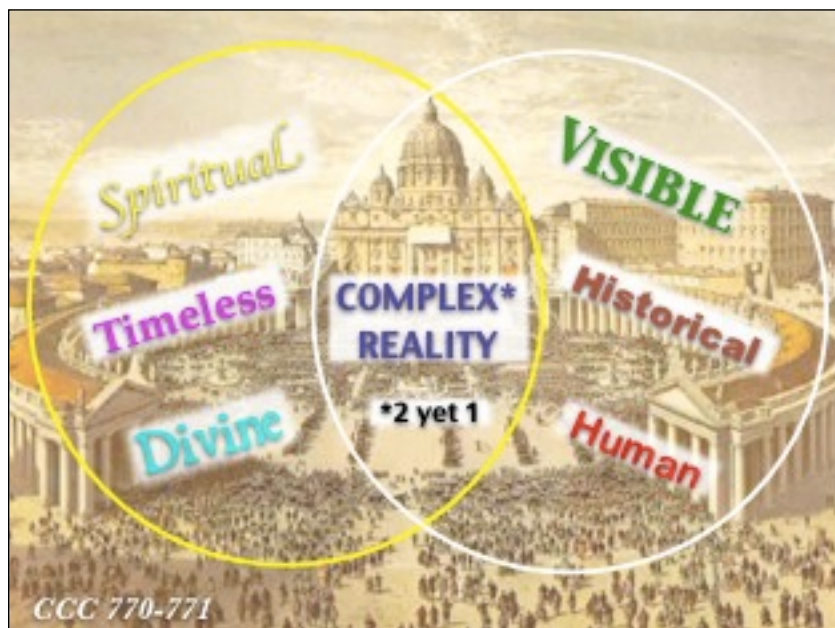
**The two shall become one flesh.**

*His Body*

*The Reality of  
the Mystery*



*His Bride*





**ONE**

**Source:** *"the highest exemplar and source of this mystery is the unity, in the Trinity of Persons, of one God, the Father and the Son in the Holy Spirit."*

*Unity is of the essence of the Church*

**ONE**

**Founder:** *for "the Word made flesh, the prince of peace, reconciled all men to God by the cross, . . . restoring the unity of all in one people and one body."*

*Unity is of the essence of the Church*

**ONE**

**"Soul":** *It is the Holy Spirit, dwelling in those who believe and pervading and ruling over the entire Church, who brings about that wonderful communion of the faithful and joins them together so intimately in Christ that he is the principle of the Church's unity*

*Unity is of the essence of the Church*

**ONE*****Visible Bonds:***

- profession of faith*
- common celebration of divine worship*
- apostolic succession*

*Unity is of the essence of the Church*

**HOLY**

*United with Christ, the Church is sanctified by him; through him and with him she becomes sanctifying.*

**HOLY**

*It is in the Church that "the fullness of the means of salvation" has been deposited. It is in her that "by the grace of God we acquire holiness."*



## CATHOLIC

*The word "catholic" means "universal," in the sense of "according to the totality" or "in keeping with the whole."*

## CATHOLIC

*The Church is catholic because she has been sent out by Christ on a mission to the whole of the human race.*

## APOSTOLIC

*She is built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone. cf Eph 2:20*

# ***The Church of Antiquity***

- ***Acts of the Apostles fourfold adherence:***

- *To the teachings of the Apostles*
- *To the breaking of the bread*
- *To the community*
- *To the prayers*

- ***Early Church Fathers***

- *St. Polycarp*
- *St. Clement of Rome*
- *St. Augustine*



CCC 857ff

## **APOSTOLIC**

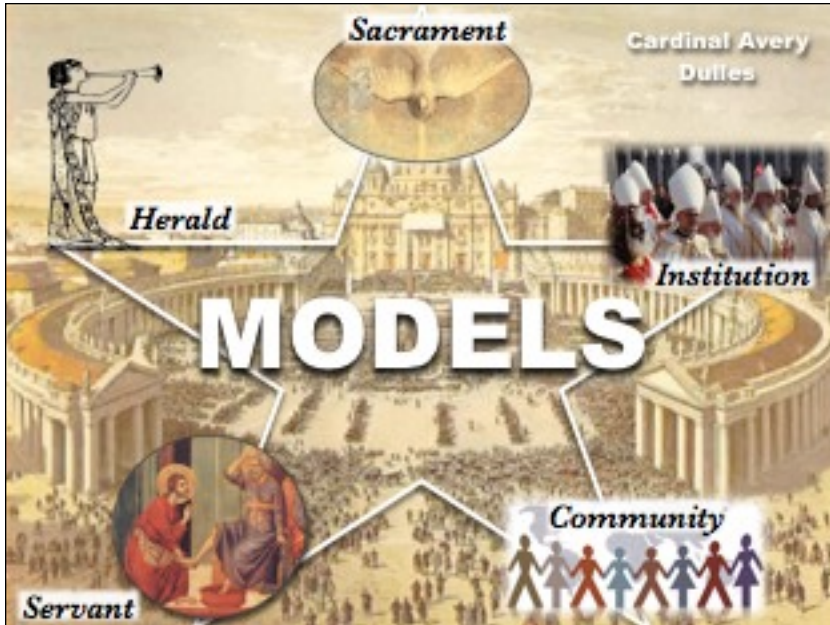
*The Church keeps and hands on the teaching, the "good deposit," the salutary words she has heard from the apostles*

CCC 857ff

## **APOSTOLIC**

*She continues to be taught, sanctified, and guided by the apostles until Christ's return, through their successors in pastoral office*





## ***The Communion of Saints***

***Church Triumphant: perfect souls in Heaven***

***Church Suffering: holy souls in Purgatory***

***Church Militant: pilgrim souls on earth***

CCC 946-962

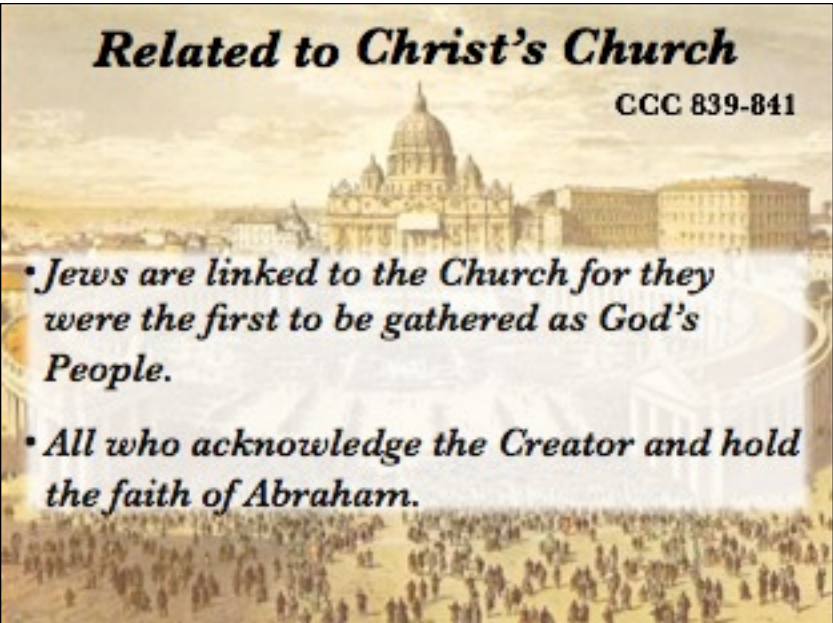
## ***Members of Christ's Church***

CCC 836-838

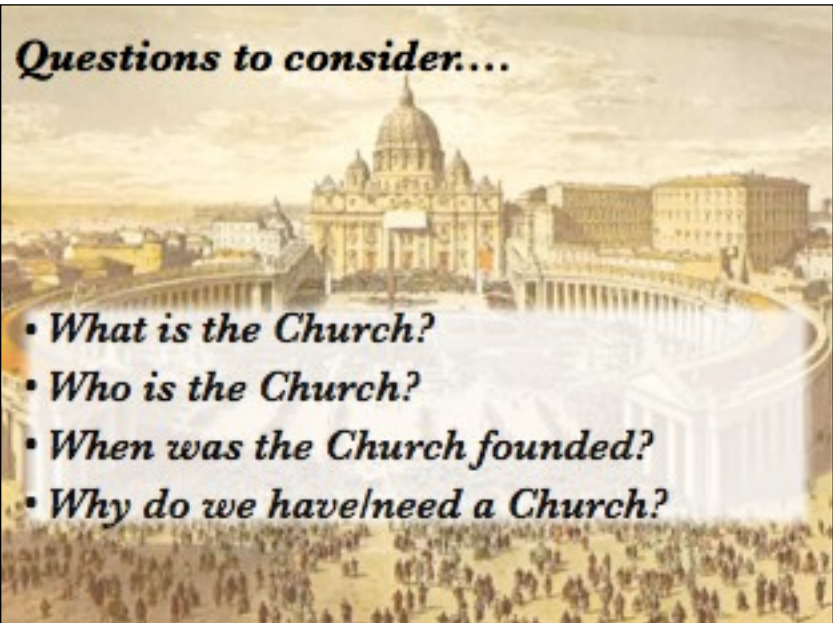
- ***Baptized Catholics:*** *who practice their faith and live a sacramental life.*
- ***Orthodox Christians:*** *who because of common sacraments and moral teaching are in communion though imperfectly since they reject the primacy of the Chair of St. Peter.*
- ***Baptized Christians:*** *who have some of the sacraments and share in Faith in the Lord.*

## ***Related to Christ's Church***

CCC 839-841

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- *Jews are linked to the Church for they were the first to be gathered as God's People.*
  - *All who acknowledge the Creator and hold the faith of Abraham.*

## ***Questions to consider....***

- 
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