



# Field Trip to Catholicism

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# Important Vocabulary to understand Catholicism

## ✦ Apostles

- ✦ Men appointed by Jesus Christ to proclaim the word of God and to heal others.
  - ✦ They are special missionaries of the Early Church.
  - ✦ Serves as the very foundation of Catholicism's original church

## ✦ Catechism

- ✦ Summary of doctrine presented by a Church that answers common questions people have about the religion

## ✦ Eucharist (Communion)

- ✦ Commemoration of the Last Supper
  - ✦ The final meal of Jesus Christ, in which he gave his disciples bread and wine saying, "This is my body, and this is my blood."
- ✦ This sacrament serves as a sacrifice and as a meal.
  - ✦ The bread and wine are consecrated and are believed to become the body and blood of Jesus

## ✦ Vatican

- ✦ The Holy City
- ✦ Independent State
- ✦ The Spiritual center of the Catholic Church



# Why do Catholics believe in the Holy Trinity, in that God is three beings?

- ✦ Catholics believe in one God, but that he is composed of three distinct persons:
  - ✦ The Father, The Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- ✦ All three beings are considered equals and each are a part of God
- ✦ Biblical evidence
  - ✦ In the New Testament, God reveals this through the baptism of Jesus Christ
    - ✦ The Holy Spirit appeared in the form of a dove and the voice of God the Father was heard
  - ✦ Also in the New Testament (Matthew 28.19)
    - ✦ God the Son commands the Apostles to baptize “In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.”



# Where did the idea of a Pope as a leader come from, and what is the role of the Pope?

✦ The idea of the Pope was derived from a passage in the Bible:



✦ Matthew 16:17-19: "Jesus said to him in reply, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father. And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

✦ Jesus gave Peter alone what is known as the "power of the keys."

✦ Peter's designated responsibility was unique from the other Apostles, however. Christ knew that someone needed to rule over the Church, so therefore, he granted authority to Peter.

✦ To all of the Apostles he gave the government of the Church.

✦ The accompanying authorities included the authority to absolve sins, assign discipline, and make judgments of doctrine.

✦ . In order to continue the Church until the return of Jesus, succession was a necessary follow to his rule.

✦ The current Pope is Pope Benedict XVI, the 265<sup>th</sup> Pope.

✦ The Pope's ultimate role is to keep the Church stable, and to carry out God's will in the physical world.

# How many sacraments are there, and what are they?

✦ There are seven Catholic sacraments, which include ceremonies of what Catholics hold sacred and significant

✦ These include:

✦ Baptism

✦ Eucharist

✦ Reconciliation

✦ Also known as Penance or Confession. Involves revealing our sins out loud to have them forgiven by God.

✦ Confirmation

✦ Rite that seals one to the Holy Ghost, and gives grace to help one become a more perfect Catholic

✦ Marriage

✦ Holy Orders

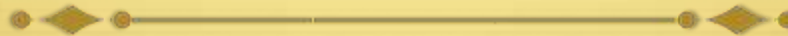
✦ Sacrament that ordains bishops, priests, and deacons.

✦ Anointing of the Sick

✦ Ritual healing where a priest anoints blessed oil on a sick or dying person and prays for their salvation.



# What is transubstantiation?



✦ Key doctrine of the Catholic Church

✦ Explanation can be found in the Catechism of the Catholic Church in section 1376:

✦ **"The Council of Trent summarizes the Catholic faith by declaring: 'Because Christ our Redeemer said that it was truly his body that he was offering under the species of bread, it has always been the conviction of the Church of God, and this holy Council now declares again, that by the consecration of the bread and wine there takes place a change of the whole substance of the bread into the substance of the body of Christ our Lord and of the whole substance of the wine into the substance of his blood. This change the holy Catholic Church has fittingly and properly called transubstantiation.'**"

✦ In laymen's terms, when a ordained priest blesses the bread of the Lord's Supper, the bread is no longer a representation of Christ's body. The bread actually transforms into the flesh of Christ through the blessing.

✦ This also occurs with wine, but it transforms into the actual blood of Christ.



# What are the rules for Holy Communion? Can anyone be apart of it?

- ✦ Only Catholics can be a part of Communion/ the Eucharist.
  - ✦ This is referred to as a “closed communion.”
- ✦ Being Catholic does not guarantee one’s right to receive Communion however.
  - ✦ One who participates must be in a state of grace (one without sin)
    - ✦ Have gone to Confession since committing their last sin
    - ✦ Must believe in the process of Transubstantiation
    - ✦ Observe the Eucharistic fast
- ✦ 1 Corinthians 11:27- 28 states that “Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a man examine himself, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup.”



# Is it an extensive process to become Catholic?



- ✦ The process of conversion differs for every person.
  - ✦ The Catholic Church offers Catechumenate (“Christian Initiation” The process of entering the church as a unbaptized, non- Christian adult)
    - ✦ Basically an immersion into the Catholic way of life and traditions
  - ✦ New converts are guided by a Catholic sponsor who will serve to give spiritual guidance
- ✦ Several rites mark a person’s journey to church membership
  - ✦ Baptism
  - ✦ The Easter Vigil usually marks the end of the transformation into Catholicism
- ✦ Already practicing Christians do not need to go through the same initiation process
  - ✦ BUT they must come to truly understand Catholicism and become acquainted with the ways of Catholics before making the decision to convert
  - ✦ Also, they must make a confession of faith and celebrate rites such as the Eucharist and Confirmation



# What is the education of a Priest?

- ✦ The education process of a Priest is very extensive
  - ✦ This education can last up to 5 or 6 years
  - ✦ The program differs within each country
    - ✦ In the US, priests are required to have a bachelors degree and an additionally 4 or 5 years in graduate- level theology



# Can priests be women?



- ✦ The Vatican maintains the standard that only baptized men can become ordained due to the example set by Jesus
  - ✦ Jesus never appointed females as apostles
- ✦ Since it was the standard set by Jesus himself, the Vatican believes that they have no right to change it
- ✦ Another argument is that Jesus can only be represented by males, because he was male himself
  - ✦ In the words of the Church itself, "Only a baptized man validly receives sacred ordination. The Lord Jesus chose men to form the college of the twelve apostles, and the apostles did the same when they chose collaborators to succeed them in their ministry. The college of bishops, with whom the priests are united in the priesthood, makes the college of the twelve an ever-present and ever-active reality until Christ's return. The Church recognizes herself to be bound by this choice made by the Lord himself. For this reason the ordination of women is not possible." - Catechism of the Catholic Church #1577

# Why are Catholic and Protestant bibles different?

- ✦ The Protestant Bible happens to be seven books shorter than the one used by Roman Catholics
  - ✦ This is due to the fact that Protestants hold completely different standards of what should be included within the Bible
  - ✦ At the time of creation of Protestantism, leaders decided to base the organization of the Old Testament on what was strictly accepted by Judaism
  - ✦ Other books, known as the Septuagint, the Greek translation of the Hebrew Scripture acquired more books than found in the original Scripture
    - ✦ Those books were seen as less important and left out of the Protestant Bibles
  - ✦ Protestants hold to the belief that only the actual Scripture matters and should dictate the lives of followers
- ✦ The Catholics instead, added these extra books



# How do Confessions work? Do all the details of sins have to be revealed?



- ✦ One can only confess sins after receiving the sacrament of penance (reconciliation)
- ✦ A Catholic priest can hear these sins either in a confessional booth for privacy, or face-to-face contact.
- ✦ Each confession begins with the phrase, “Bless me Father, for I have sinned.”
  - ✦ Then the confessor must share with the priest the last time they confessed their sins
  - ✦ The confessor is now able to confess their sins in detail or by saying which 10 Commandments were transgressed.
  - ✦ After confessing the priest asks God to forgive the sinner and the person is given prayers to say in penance
    - ✦ A person is expected to be as honest as possible during Confession, though people may forget some of their sins
      - ✦ In the case that one forgets, they are still forgiven due to the fact that the priest absolves all sins.

# What is the difference between a confession and reconciliation?

- ✦ The Sacrament is called “Confession” because the penitent makes a verbal confession of his or her particular sins.
- ✦ “Reconciliation” refers to the final effect of the Sacrament: the penitent is reconciled with God and the Church



# Why is Latin the language of the Church of the Church?



- ✦ Latin is the language of the Church because the Catholic Church began in the days of the Roman Empire, where Latin was spoken throughout the empire.
- ✦ It was St. Peter who moved the seat of the Church government from Antioch to Rome, where the Catholic Church remains centered today.
- ✦ It is the official language of the Church simply because it always has been

# Sources

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- ✦ "The Seven Catholic Sacraments - Baptism, Confirmation, Communion, Confession, Holy Orders, Marriage, Last Rites." *American Catholic: Franciscan Media: Catholic News Magazine Books Videos.* 29 Nov. 2010. <<http://www.americancatholic.org/FEATURES/sACRAMENTS/default.asp>>.

# Links for Further Research (External Links)

✦ <http://www.biblegateway.com/>

✦ This site links to a searchable online version of the Bible, where one may search for particular verses or even topics mentioned in the Bible.

✦ <http://www.gotquestions.org/>

✦ Let's face it, the Bible is hard for people of today, who live in a completely different world than shown within the text, to understand. This site has many of the answers to common questions or misconceptions about Bible passages. The sections directly speaking about Catholicism were especially helpful for us to figure out exactly why Catholics have interpreted the Bible the way they have.

✦ <http://www.catholic.net/>

✦ This is a good website for a modern Catholic. It combines the typical teachings of Catholicism with practical ways to apply your faith in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

✦ <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/>

✦ An online encyclopedia with thousands of articles on a wide span of Catholic topics.

✦ <http://www.catholiconline.org/>

✦ Catholic news source, to keep you up with everything Catholic!



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