

2023-2024 RCIA #10

11/20/23

Part I: The Creed (Chapter 11)

The Catholic Church

- The Holy Spirit and the Church
- We are the Church

The Nicene Creed

The Church

I believe in **one, holy, catholic,**
and **apostolic** Church.

I confess **one Baptism** for the forgiveness of sins.

The Explosion of Christianity

- 12 Apostles
- Grew to over
- 2.18 Billion Christians
- In the World by
 - 2010

The Catholic Church

- What does “Church” mean to you?
- How does a person become a member of the church?

The Catholic Church (Cont)

- The Holy Spirit and the Church
 - **Externally** - Jesus established His Church to give us peace of mind about our state of sanctifying grace
 - The Church teaches us:
 - As Jesus taught
 - To want the sacraments for our sanctification
 - What we need to know for our salvation
 - One becomes a member of the Church through Baptism

The Catholic Church (Cont)

- The Holy Spirit and the Church
 - **Internally**
 - The soul of the Church is the indwelling of the Trinity
 - The Holy Spirit does the work of salvation
 - God breathes his Holy Spirit into the Church
 - Jesus chose the 12 Apostles as the first bishops under the leadership of the Holy Spirit

The Catholic Church (Cont)

- The Church is a **living organism** or organization where the Trinity dwells
- The Holy Spirit is the soul of the Church
- Jesus gave **the Apostles** (and their successors the **bishops**) a three-fold mission:
 - **Teach** – the meaning of Jesus Christ
 - **Sanctify** – via Jesus Christ
 - **Govern** – under His name via the Chair of Peter, through the apostles and their successors

The Catholic Church (Cont)

- What is the hierarchy of the Church?

The Catholic Church (Cont)

- Hierarchy of the Church
 - **Pope** – the head of the universal Church
 - **Bishop** – the head of a See or geographical area
 - **Priest** – one who assists their bishop by teaching and serving the people within a parish
 - **Deacon** – one who assists the priest in their work
 - **Laity** – God's people who are baptized into His Church

The Catholic Church (Cont)

- Pope
- Bishop
- Priest
- Deacon
- Lay person
- Holy Orders
- Confirmation
- Penance
- Eucharist
- Sacrament of the Sick
- Matrimony
- Baptism

Part I: The Creed (Chapter 12)

The Marks and Attributes of the Church

- Where Do We Find It?
- Holy and Catholic
- Reason and Faith – and Myself

The Marks and Attributes of the Church

- The **Four Marks of the Church**

- **One *or unity*** – we are all united in all beliefs and under the same spiritual leadership
- **Holy** – founded by Jesus Christ who is all holy
- **Catholic** or universal – has been in existence uninterrupted since Pentecost and contains one doctrine in the world for all men
- **Apostolic** – founded by Peter and the apostles

The Marks and Attributes of the Church (Cont)

- The Church can also be seen as:
 - A **juridical** Church (or as an organization)
 - The mystical body of Christ:
 - Christ is the head
 - The believers are the body
 - The Holy Spirit is the soul
 - A living organism

The Marks and Attributes of the Church (Cont)

- Each of us is called to the Church through:
 - **Baptism** – which makes us members of the Christ's mystical body
 - **Eucharist** – which calls us to share in the common priesthood of Christ as we adore God by prayer and sacrifice and by practicing the virtues of faith, hope, and charity as we love our neighbor
- Each of us is called to have a zeal for souls and to be lay apostles

The Marks and Attributes of the Church (Cont)

- The Church contains three classifications of members:
 - **The clergy** – bishops, priests, deacons
 - **The religious** – men and women who live a community life and take vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience
 - **The laity** – all the baptized who are not clergy or religious
- The Clergy and Religious are ordained through the Sacrament of Holy Orders

Transition

- Next week we will look at:
 - Chapter 13 - The Communion of Saints
 - Chapter 14 - The Resurrection and Life Everlasting