

# JESUS'

## TRUE CHURCH

*Where on Earth is it?*



## A Case for Visible Christian Unity

*by Juliann Stella Tuck*

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So Pilate said to him,  
“Then you are a king?” Jesus answered,  
*“You say I am a king. For this I was born  
and for this I came into the world,  
to testify to the truth.  
Everyone who belongs to the truth  
listens to My voice.”*

~ John 18:37

## FORWARD

My life changed forever in 1992 when I put foolish human pride aside for a moment and prayed this heartfelt prayer:

*“Dear Holy Spirit, please show me Jesus’ true Church. If it is the Catholic Church, I will be Catholic; if it is the Jehovah’s Witnesses, I will join them. If it is a Christian denomination, I will join that church. I simply will never ever, in my lifetime, have time to study the teachings of all the churches. Please show me what is true.”*

Within TWO DAYS of that prayer, God turned the “lights on” as I like to say. In the blink of an eye, I knew that the Catholic Church is the true Church Jesus founded. There is no way to completely convey to people what a miracle this was for me. You see, I studied with the Witness Organization for four years. This organization picks apart every doctrine of the Catholic Church and tries to refute her teachings. They definitely had me confused, but not convinced, that they had the “truth” they purport to have the corner on.

I relate this absolutely unforgettable moment in my life to the story of Paul in Acts 9:18-19 where “immediately there fell something like scales from his eyes, and he regained his sight.”

I didn't understand that just one doctrine of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church was true. I immediately understood, to the core of my soul, that they were ALL true.

Just for a moment, we humans need to face the reality that we are all really like “an amoeba on an amoeba” in the vastness of the whole universe and in the course of the passage of time. If we take this moment, we may, we just may, allow the Holy Spirit the opportunity to cast off our dark ignorant pride, and the misunderstandings acquired through our living environments and level of education. We will truly find ourselves HOME and eternally thankful to God to be there!

I dedicate this little book to those who challenged my faith, to the Jehovah's Witnesses, (who, while horribly misled, are dedicated to God and to living what they understand to be God's teachings), to those who wrote the numerous books I read and gave the apologetic talks I listened to, and to those who prayed for me all of my life and during the challenging times of my faith struggle. Special thanks to my Mother, Rita Farr, who faithfully took her five children to Holy Mass every week, and my Father, Leonard Farr, who was not Catholic at the time, for his support for her in her efforts to raise us Catholic (Dad entered the Catholic Church in the Jubilee Year 2000, five years before he passed away!). I dedicate this work also to my brother Cliff Farr for his prayers and loving help, to my friend, Paula Veneklas, for her constant faithful witness and to my dear Grandma Mac for her dedication to living the Catholic faith and who prayed countless Holy Rosaries for her family.

# PREFACE

## “What is Truth?”

In John 18:38, when face-to-face with Jesus Christ, Pontius Pilate asks, “What is truth?” This surely is an age-old question for humanity.

I truly wonder today how many people are taking time to ask themselves this question, let alone how many are taking serious time to seek the answer. Does absolute truth even exist? Do we even care? If absolute truth does exist, is it our will to prove ourselves right, pridefully justifying our choices, or is it our will to absolutely know the truth? God surely knows the intent of our will. He sees it in the depths of our souls.

In the Holy Bible book of John 14:6, Jesus said, “I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life, no one comes to the Father except through Me.” Jesus became man, suffered, and died to save us from our destructive way of living. If He really is the Truth, then He really spoke the truth. Either He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, or He isn't. Either He built a church that would last until the end of time like He said He would, or He didn't. Either He is truly present in the Holy Eucharist, as He said in John 6:53 & 54, or He isn't.

Objective truth is reality and is true for everyone whether they agree with it or not. Objective truth is unchangeable. For example:

1. Human beings need oxygen to survive.
2. There is a law of gravity on the earth. If I am human, believe I can fly, and jump off the top of the Empire State Building without a parachute, I will die.
3. If you cut a human being deeply enough, they will bleed.
4. Standing out in the pouring rain without a cover will make a person wet.

The list here could go on and on.

Subjective truth means I make truth up for myself as I go along in life. Subjective truth is absolutely destructive, it blows with the wind and causes chaos. It ebbs and flows with the times people live in, and it is ever changeable, never constant. The devil and his cohorts love when people adopt this way of life. True, lasting peace is unattainable. This little book is for those who want to know the truth about God. It is for those who seek the truth. With God's help, they will find the truth, so they can fully live in the truth. I can't imagine a more important pursuit in life. By the grace of God, may the following pages help the reader in this most worthy endeavor.

## INTRODUCTION

“We have seen His star in the east  
and have come to adore Him.”

~ Matthew 2:2

With Christian denominations in America and around the world now numbering in the tens of thousands (and growing each day!), a person seeking to follow Jesus Christ can become easily confused and discouraged. Some now call their Christian churches “non-denominational” in an attempt to disassociate themselves from the mass confusion. In frustration, some Christians have given up trying to find a church, choosing instead to stay home and “read their Bible”. Some groups call themselves Christian that don’t even believe in the Holy Trinity! God’s Holy Word is interpreted in so many different ways it is extremely difficult for the sincere of heart to know where to go and what to believe.

Unfortunately, some followers of Christ today choose their denomination (or non-denomination) by how much they feel welcomed, the ability of the pastor to “move” them, the quality of the music or youth ministries, etc. These things are nice, but what a Christian should be seeking first and foremost is the true Church founded by Jesus Christ Himself! Only in Jesus Christ’s Church is the **fullness of truth** found. How can a person find His Church today? Did Jesus even start a physical Church? Who has the time or energy to learn what each church teaches? What criteria determines which church has the truth?

**Where is the bright star leading us to Jesus today?**

# One Flock and One Shepherd

In the New Testament, there are at least twelve references to the followers of Jesus Christ being “one”. It is the will of God that there be “**one flock and one shepherd**” as spoken by Jesus Himself in John 10:16. In John 10:27-30, Jesus said “**My sheep hear My voice; I know them, and they follow Me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish. No one can take them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all, and no one can take them out of the Father’s hand. I and the Father are one.**”

After our dear Lord Jesus prayed to the Father in heaven that the Father would “**consecrate them in the truth**”, Jesus said, “**I have given them the glory you gave Me, so that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.**” (Jn. 17:17-26) The great news is that this fervent prayer of Jesus truly **was** answered by God the Father, and has continued to be answered for centuries upon centuries! God the Father **did** “**consecrate them in the truth**”. Jesus’ prayer did not go unanswered by His loving Father in heaven. Jesus Christ’s Church is One! Just read on and you will soon understand.

## **St. Cyprian (c. 250)**

*“God is one and Christ is one, and one is His Church, and the faith is one, and His people welded together by the glue of concord into a solid unity of body. Unity cannot be rent asunder; nor can the one body of the Church, through the division of its structure, be divided into separate pieces.”*  
*On the Unity of the Church 23.*

## **St. Irenaeus (c. 200)**

*“...the Church, having received this preaching and this faith, although she is disseminated throughout the whole world, yet guarded it, as if she occupied but one house. She likewise believes these things just as if she had but one soul and one and the same heart; and harmoniously she proclaims them and teaches them and hands them down, as if she possessed but one mouth.”*  
*Against Heresies 1, 10, 2.*

# Church Founded by Jesus Christ

Did Jesus start a Church on this earth or didn't He? If He did, could Jesus' Church fail? Let's put aside any worldly arguments, prejudice or confusion and focus on the **words of Jesus Himself**. Let's look at what He really said, not just what we *think* He said. Since we call Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, we should trust His words completely. The devil is the god of confusion and "**a liar and the father of lies**" (Jn. 8:44), our Divine Savior spoke (and speaks) the truth with complete clarity.

Jesus said: "**I am come a light into the world; that whosoever believes in Me, may not remain in darkness. And if any man hears My words, and keeps them not, I do not judge him: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. *He that despises Me, and receives not My words, has one that judges him; the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him on the last day.* For I have not spoken of Myself; but the Father who sent Me, He gave Me commandment what I should say, and what I should speak.**" (Jn.12:46-49) Jesus' **word** will judge us! How vitally important is His word!

"**If you remain in My word, you will truly be My disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.**" (Jn. 8:31-32)

In Matthew 16:18, we see that Jesus did indeed found a Church. "**Upon this rock I will build My Church**". These words were spoken by Jesus in the presence of the apostles, and directed to Peter whom Jesus would "**give the keys to the kingdom of heaven**" (Mt. 16:19/Is. 22:22) Notice that Jesus said, "**I will build**", not "you" will build and "**My**" not "your" Church. This makes moot the argument some make about whether Peter is the rock or Jesus is the rock (although there is a correct answer). Either way, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, is the builder of His Church. **He said so Himself! Jesus, who cannot fail, is the Head of the Church.** Jesus promised the guidance of the Holy Spirit, "**But the Paraclete, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring all things to your mind, whatsoever I have said to you.**" (Jn. 14:26) In John 16:12-13, our Divine Savior promises to instruct the disciples further after He leaves them, "**I have yet many things to say to you; but you cannot bear them now. But when He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will teach you *all truth.***"

Jesus poured out the Holy Spirit upon His disciples when He said: “**As the Father has sent Me, so I send you. He breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven, and whose sins you retain are retained.’**” (Jn. 20:21-23). What a powerful statement!

Jesus pledged to His heavenly Father, “**I made known to them Your name, and I will make it known, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them and I in them.**” (John 17:26) Jesus knew He was going to die soon, and that He would fulfill this promise to His heavenly Father through the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, poured out upon His apostles and their successors until the day He would come again.

So, Jesus **DID** start a Church. Jesus **DID** promise to continue to instruct and guide His disciples after He went to heaven. Jesus, who is “**the way, and the truth and the life**” (Jn. 14:6), **DID** tell His disciples that the Holy Spirit would continue to guide them and teach them “**all truth**”.

Did Jesus take this blessing away from His very own Church? Is there really anything man could have done which would warrant Jesus leaving His Church and breaking His promises? When the angel Gabriel prophesied about Jesus to the Blessed Virgin Mary in Luke 1:32-33, he stated: “He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of David His father; and He shall reign in the house of Jacob forever. And of His kingdom there shall be no end.” Is Jesus, the “King of Kings and “Lord of Lords” not great enough to hold together the Church He founded for the salvation of souls? Jesus Christ said: “**the Holy Spirit will be with you always.**” (Jn: 14:16) The apostle, John, said in 1 John 3 vs. 24 that: “the way we know that He remains in us is from the Spirit that He gave us”. The Holy Spirit protects and guides the Church. Jesus also said: “**Behold, I am with you all days, even to the consummation of the world.**” (Mt. 28:19-20) About His Church, Jesus also said: “**the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.**” (Mt. 16:18) Jesus’ words here are absolute, undeniable and irrefutable.

Jesus Christ, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, also said: “**For truly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the law until all is accomplished.**” (Mt. 5:18) “**Not an iota, not a dot**”, talk about absolute!

Jesus said: “**I will not leave you orphans, I will come to you.**” (Jn. 14:18) Here Jesus refers not only to the fact that the guidance of the Holy Spirit would always

be with His Church, but that He would truly remain with His people in the Most Holy Eucharist; body, blood, soul and divinity. “I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever.” (Jn. 6:53) “Amen, Amen, I say to you: unless you eat the Flesh of the Son of Man and drink His Blood you shall have no life in you.” He did not leave us orphans!

**St. Irenaeus (c. 200)**

*“For where the Church is, there is the Spirit of God; and where the Spirit of God, there the Church and every grace. The Spirit, however, is Truth.”*  
*Against Heresies 3, 24, 1.*

# God is in Charge

Jesus said that He would be with His disciples “**always**”. He **didn’t** say that He would leave them if they sinned against Him or if they persecuted Him. Being God, Jesus knew very well that this would happen! Right away, as Jesus foretold, Peter denied Him three times. (Mt. 27:69-75) Jesus, seeing this, still gave Peter the authority/keys (Mt. 16:18/Is. 22:22) and the power to bind and loose: “**Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven**”. (Mt. 16:19, 18:17-19) By these words, Jesus gave Peter the authority to govern His Church on earth. Here we find the beginning of the papacy.

Peter’s name always heads the list of the Apostles (Mt. 10:1-4, Mk. 3:16-19, Lk. 6:14-16, Ac. 1:13) and the name of this first Supreme Pontiff occurs in Sacred Scripture 195 times, more than all the rest of the apostles combined! (See also Jn. 21:15-17, Lk. 22:32)

In the Old Testament, one can easily see that God never left the Jewish people even though they forsook Him time and time again. Why did God not leave them? Why did He not get sick and tired of their disobedience, remove His blessing and adopt another “chosen people”? Because God is God and God is in charge! God knows all, sees all, and is in charge of all. His will WILL be accomplished. Because He is a merciful, loving God, He allows man free will. People can choose to love Him and obey or choose disobedience and sin. Our all-knowing, all-loving God is quite aware that true love can never be forced, it is chosen. (1Sam. 3:9-10)

Jesus will never leave His Church because of the disobedience of man. His plan will be accomplished through sinful man. Our problem today is that we have brought God down to our weak human level. We have made Him puny and wimpy; we have forgotten that He is the Almighty Creator, and we are His creatures! Why would anyone want to worship a wimpy God?! Our God is an all-powerful God!

# Jesus Christ Holds His Beloved Church Together

Jesus ushered in the New Covenant. He established His Church to instruct people in His teachings and perform the sacraments He instituted to strengthen and guide people to heaven until His return. Ephesians 5:22-32 says that, “Christ also loved the church, and delivered Himself up for it: that He might sanctify it, cleansing it by the laver of water in the word of life: That He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy, and without blemish”, and in verse 29, **“For no man ever hated his own flesh; but nourishes it and cherishes it, as also Christ does the Church.”**

I dare say these verses alone show how much our beloved Jesus loves His Church, what He went through to give us His infallible Church, and that He would **never** leave His Church. One can only imagine the depths of sorrow His Most Sacred Heart feels when His children leave His Church.

Ephesians 2:19-22 says: “Brothers and sisters: You are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the holy ones and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the Apostles and prophets, with **Christ Jesus Himself as the capstone. Through Him the whole structure is held together** and grows into a temple sacred in the Lord; in Him you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.” Notice that Saint Paul said: “Through Him the whole structure is held together.” (See Ps. 118:22, Mt. 21-42, Acts. 4:10-11, Eph. 2:20-22, 1Pt. 2:4-8, 2Tim. 2:19) Jesus Christ holds His Church together.

In 1Cor. 3:10-11, St. Paul gives this stern warning: **“But let every man take heed how he builds upon it for no one can lay a foundation other than the one that is there, namely, Jesus Christ.”** Ephesians 1:18-23: “The eyes of your heart enlightened, that you may know what is the hope that belongs to His call, what are the riches of glory in His inheritance among the holy ones, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power for us who believe, in accord with the exercise of His great might, which He worked in Christ, raising Him at His right hand in the heavens, far above every principality, authority, power, and dominion, and every name that is named **“not only in this age, but also in the**

**one to come. And He put all things beneath His feet and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of the one who fills all things in every way.”**

God’s plan for the universe is carried out through His Church: “That the manifold wisdom of God may be made known to the principalities and powers in heavenly places **through the church**, according to the eternal purpose, which He made in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Eph. 3:10) As God’s purpose is eternal, His Church is eternal. The Church Jesus founded did not fail; it will not fail, **ever**. All people of goodwill should earnestly seek this Church!

**Jesus Christ:**

**“If any man would come after Me, let him deny himself, take up his cross and follow Me.”** (Mt. 16:24)

**Saint Pope John Paul II (Homily for Vespers for conclusion of Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 1/25/03):**

“Spiritual ecumenism takes place above all through prayer raised up to God, in common whenever possible. Like Mary and the disciples after the Lord’s Ascension, it is important that we continue to come together and call untiringly upon the Holy Spirit (cf. Acts 1:12,14). To prayer we must also add listening to the Word of God in Sacred Scripture, the foundation and sustenance of our faith (cf. Dei Verbum, 21-25). For there can be no ecumenical rapprochement without conversion of heart, personal sanctification and renewal of ecclesial life.”

# Where Did the Bible Come From?

In 1 Timothy 3:15, Timothy speaks of the **Church** being the “**pillar and bulwark of truth**” (some translations say: “pillar and foundation of truth”). Notice that Timothy said “the Church” is the pillar and bulwark of the truth, not the Sacred Scriptures/Holy Bible. Interestingly, in Sacred Scripture, words of Jesus commanding the disciples to go write and assemble the Sacred Scriptures are not to be found. In Mt. 28:19-20, Jesus **DID** command the disciples to: “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.” Jesus’ word was then passed “through word of mouth or by letter.” (2Thes. 2:15)

Through Jesus’ Church is how the early Christians were saved for almost four hundred years before the New Testament of Sacred Scripture existed. Once compiled by the Holy Catholic Church and deemed inspired by the Holy Spirit, the Scriptures of the New Testament were tediously hand-copied on the very fragile paper of the day and carefully preserved by Catholic monks for years. How many people even ask themselves where the Bible came from? The Canon of the New Testament was settled by the Holy Catholic Church at the Councils of Carthage in 397 A.D. and 419 A.D. It was reaffirmed at the Council of Florence in 1442 and the Council of Trent in 1546. **Can people really know how to interpret the Bible better than the Church that God used to compile and preserve it?**

The printing press wasn’t even invented until one-thousand-four-hundred plus years after Jesus’ resurrection! Even then, Sacred Scripture was expensive, not widely available for years and years (especially in one’s native tongue), and many people couldn’t read. Jesus’ Church, that He “nourishes and cherishes” (Eph. 5:29), is the guardian and interpreter of the Sacred Scriptures. **The teaching passed on by “word of mouth” is called “Sacred Oral (or Apostolic) Tradition.”**

People learned by gathering themselves together (Heb. 10:25) and hearing the word proclaimed. They worshiped and learned together. They understood the importance of gathering together to be nourished by the Holy Eucharist and the inspiration of Sacred Scripture. In these gatherings, God gives the gifts of the Holy Spirit. “And let us consider one another; to provoke unto charity and good works, not forsaking our assembly, as some are accustomed; but comforting one another, and so much the more as you see the day approaching.” (Heb. 10:24 & 25)

# The Church is the “Bride of Christ”

The only Christian Church that traces its (her) history back to St. Peter to whom Jesus gave the keys and has remained steadfastly true to this authority, is the Holy Catholic Church. The Holy Catholic Church is the “bride of Christ” (thus referenced with the pronouns “she” or “her”, see Jn. 3:29, Mk. 2:19, Mt. 22:1-14, 25:1-13, 1Cor. 6:15-17, 2 Cor. 11:2). Jesus referred to Himself as the “bridegroom” in Mark 2:19. “The Church is the spotless bride of the spotless Lamb” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, ref. Rev. 22:17, Eph. 1:4, 5:27) “What God has joined together, let no man separate.” (Mk. 10:9)

He who sits in the Chair of Peter in Rome today (the pope or supreme pontiff) is the visible head of the Church, while Jesus is the invisible head. Jesus said, “**You are the light of the world. A city seated on a mountain cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle and put it under a bushel, but upon a candlestick, that it may shine to all that are in the house.**” (Mt. 5:14-15, Mk. 4:21) Jesus has made His Church very visible. No church leader is as widely known or recognized in the world by image and name than the pope. Catholic parishes are abundant worldwide! **The Catholic Church is not a denomination.** Those who broke away from the Catholic church in protest created denominations. The Catholic church has always remained one body, just as Jesus prayed for. The Catholic Church is One!

Every Catholic bishop traces their ordination back to St. Peter, which is known as “Apostolic Succession.”

*“The apostolic tradition is manifested and preserved in the whole world by those who were made bishops by the apostles and their successors down to our own time.”* (Catechism of the Catholic Church 8823-829, 857-865)

*“Bishops have by divine institution taken the place of the apostles as pastors of the Church.”* (Second Vatican Council)

As Jesus does not lie, and Jesus always follows through on His word, “*So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, but shall do My will, achieving the end for which I sent it*”, (Is. 55:11) we can sincerely trust that the Church Jesus founded upon this earth still exists to lead people to heaven in our day. Jesus was describing His Church when He said: “**a wise man who built his house upon a rock...and the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and they beat upon that house, and it fell not, for**

it was founded on a rock.” (Mt. 7:24-25) Jesus’ Church has been buffeted for almost 2000 years. His Church still stands as a beacon to all, and it will until Jesus returns. Churches founded by human beings are ultimately destined to fail. Jesus said: “Amen I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.” (Mt. 18:2) Just as children innocently and completely trust the ones that love them, we likewise must humble ourselves and trust in our Divine Savior. **If He said His Church will withstand the gates of Hell and remain until the end of time, it surely will!**

**Pope St. Leo the Great (440-461) known as the “Doctor of Church’s Unity”:**  
*“A whole faith,” says St. Leo, “a true faith, is a mighty bulwark. No one can add anything to it, no one can take anything away from it; for unless it is one, it is no faith at all.” (Serm. 24.6 on the Feast of the Nativity, PL 54. 207 -- as quoted in Pope John XXIII’s encyclical, Aeterna Dei Sapientia)*

*“Things secular stand on a different basis from things divine, and there can be no sure building save on that rock which the Lord has set as the foundation (Mt. 16:18). He who covets what is not his due, loses what is rightfully his.” (Ep. 104.3 to the Emperor Marcian, PL 54.995; cf. Ep. 106, to Antolius, bishop of Constantinople, PL 54. 995-as quoted in Pope John XXIII’s encyclical Aeterna Dei Sapientia)*

# One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church

One very misleading teaching circulating today is that the twelve apostles went out and began their own disunited “churches” after Jesus’ resurrection. People are being instructed, for example, that the Church at Ephesus and the Church at Corinth were different Christian denominations. Besides being **completely** historically inaccurate, one can reason that if the apostles all began autonomous churches right after Jesus’ resurrection, all teaching different “truths”, the truth that our Beloved Savior became man, suffered and died for would have been lost right away! Christianity would have been snuffed out almost immediately! **All of the apostle’s bodily remains rest inside Catholic Churches.**

Some people alive when Jesus walked the earth were very quickly misled into false teachings. How rapidly people began straying from Jesus Christ’s teaching is illustrated not long after His death. In Galatians 1:6-12, St. Paul states: “I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you in the grace of Christ and turning to another gospel contrary to that which we preached to you. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach a gospel to you besides that which we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to that which you received, let him be accursed. Am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I trying to please men? If I were still pleasing men, I should not be a servant of Christ. For I give you to understand, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For neither did I receive it of man nor did I learn it; but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

The different churches being referred to, such as the Church at Ephesus, belonged to Jesus Christ’s **one** Church. They were being written to and instructed by their bishops (apostles/disciples). Different “rites” developed from the traditions and customs of peoples whom the apostles converted. Some of these rites existing today are the Chaldean Catholic Church, the Antiochian Syrian Maronite Catholic Church, and the Byzantine Catholic Churches. The “Roman” Catholic church is more accurately called the Latin Catholic Church. There are eight different rites; all unitedly recognize the one who sits in the Chair of Peter as the supreme authority of Jesus’ Church.

An interesting illustration of the authority Jesus gave to the apostles to interpret His words for the people is in the story of the Sower of the Seed (Lk. 8:4-15). Jesus tells the parable to “a very great multitude”. After He was finished, “He cried out, ‘**he that has ears let him hear**’ and His disciples asked Him what this parable might be. To whom He said, ‘**to you is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God; but to the rest in parables, that seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.**” Jesus goes on to explain the meaning of the parable to the twelve disciples only. He *did not* go back and explain the meaning to the multitudes. Another example is in Mark 4:30-34 after Jesus told the mustard seed parable: “With many such parables He spoke to them as they were able to understand it. Without parables He did not speak to them, but to His own disciples He explained everything in private.”

An Ethiopian eunuch, a high court official of the queen in charge of her entire treasury, was returning home from worshiping in Jerusalem. He was reading the prophet Isaiah. The apostle Philip rides up behind him, and moved by the Holy Spirit, goes to join up with the eunuch’s chariot. Philip asks: “Do you understand what you are reading?” The humble eunuch replies, “How can I, unless someone instructs me?” He then invites Philip to get in, asks a question, and Philip explains scripture passages to him, proclaiming Jesus to him. Philip had the power of the Holy Spirit given by Jesus to interpret the scriptures accurately. (Acts:8:26-40) The eunuch had the humility to understand that he needed help to understand the true meaning of the scriptures.

Jesus gave His teaching authority to the hierarchy of His Church. Through this way, His word was and is protected. The teaching authority of the Holy Catholic Church is called the **Holy Magisterium**. “It is the Magisterium’s task to preserve God’s people from deviations and defections and to guarantee them the objective possibility of professing the true faith without error. Thus, the pastoral duty of the Magisterium is aimed at seeing to it that the People of God abide in the *truth that liberates*. To fulfill this service, Christ endowed the Church’s shepherds with the charism of infallibility in matters of faith and morals. The Roman Pontiff, head of the college of bishops, enjoys this infallibility in virtue of his office, when, as supreme pastor and teacher of all the faithful -- who confirms his brethren in the faith -- **he proclaims by a definitive act a doctrine pertaining to faith or morals**. The infallibility promised to the Church is also present in the body of bishops when, together with Peter’s successor, they exercise the supreme Magisterium”, above all in Ecumenical Council. (Catechism of the Catholic Church #890-91)

This does not mean that a pope cannot sin. It is said the Holy Father goes to the Sacrament of Confession weekly! Remember, God is God, and “nothing is impossible with God.” (Lk. 1:37) Also see: John 21:15-17 and Luke 22:31-32.

**St. Bernard of Clairvaux (c. 1090-1153)**

*“O humility! O sublimity! Both tabernacle of cedar and sanctuary of God; earthly dwelling and celestial palace; house of clay and royal hall; body of death and temple of light; and at last both object of scorn to the proud and bride of Christ! She is black but beautiful, O daughters of Jerusalem, for even if the labor and pain of her long exile may have discolored her, yet heaven’s beauty has adorned her. (In Cant. Sermo 27:14: PL 183:920D)*

\*\*Numerous references from the Sacred Scriptures/Holy Bible showing that Jesus started an authoritative church, and examples of the Church’s hierarchy are listed at the end of this work.

# Authority is Necessary to Maintain Order

The fact that Jesus **started** an authoritative Church makes complete sense. First and foremost to preserve the truth He became man, suffered and died for. C.S. Lewis compared Jesus becoming man with we humans becoming “slugs”. How much lower a form of being we are than God! Yet, He so loved us as to come and live among us “slugs”, even allowing us to persecute, torture and kill Him! Surely after all He went through for us, His Church would carry on whole and intact.

Secondly, as our creator, He knows that even, “Every human community needs an authority to govern it. The foundation of such authority lies in human nature. It is necessary for the unity of the state. Its role is to ensure as far as possible the common good of society.” (Catechism of the Catholic Church #1898) From such authority as the government who makes the laws, the police who enforce the laws, the president and CEO of companies who direct their operations, to teachers and principals, to the parents of families, *human beings follow authority*.

As authority is necessary in the secular world to preserve order and peace, so too in the Church. As we in America have a fallible Supreme Court to interpret our laws, so Jesus’ Church has an *infallible* Holy Magisterium to interpret His laws. In America today, we have to be especially diligent not to appoint Supreme Court justices who have not studied the original intent of our forefathers in crafting the Constitution, as they may misinterpret it to disastrous consequences. So also, we must be careful of those without true authority who misinterpret the Bible. This HAS had disastrous consequences to the Body of Christ and it will continue to have disastrous consequences until visible unity is restored!

Even churches that have broken from the Catholic Church have authority through some form of hierarchy. Someone must be in charge! God expects us to be subject to lawful authorities acting justly, “Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore he who resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment.” (Rom. 13:1-2) This goes for Jesus’ Church as well.

As the Church’s authority comes from Jesus Christ, the true High Priest, people need to be very wary of the “I don’t agree with all the Church teaches” mentality. As with those who condemned Jesus to death, are we “caught up with the crowd”

who make themselves the arbiters of what is true? Are we like Pontius Pilate who asked “What is truth?” (Jn. 18:38) but refused to listen for, or really even want the answer? Are we afraid we might have to make changes in our lives? By what standards are we making this judgment, God’s or mans? For if we claim to follow Jesus, and He is in charge of His Church, who are we to disagree? It is when one totally humbles oneself that the truth and genuine freedom are really found. Pray for the gift of faith!

*“Give ear; listen humbly, for the Lord speaks. Give glory to the Lord, your God, before it grows dark; before your feet stumble on darkening mountains; before the light you look for turns to darkness, changes into black clouds. If you do not listen to this in your pride, I will weep in secret many tears, for the Lord’s flock, led away to exile.” Jer. 13:15-17*

# Visible Christian Unity

Common sense tells us that the complete truth cannot be found in every Christian denomination because they are all teaching different “truths” about Jesus. **Jesus does not contradict Himself.** *“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.”* (Heb. 13:8) With Christian denominations numbering higher and higher (estimated in 2023 at an ever growing 45,000, and this after only 500 years since the Protestant Reformation!), we Christians need to wake up and recognize Satan’s effective “divide and conquer” tactic. (Mt. 12:25)

Although Jesus’ Church is one, this awesome truth is confused by the fact that visible Christian unity does not now exist. What tragic precedent was set by those who broke from Jesus’ Church! To unbelievers, Christianity is in a state of mass confusion. The devil uses this confusion to keep people away from Jesus and His Church. Just look at the state of America and the world today; the lack of morality has reached levels extremely abhorrent to God.

Americans, especially, are far removed from ancient Christian history because America is such a young country! All of the historical sites of the early Church are overseas. Truth seekers must delve into history. Just think, Jesus’ Church existed for *one-thousand seven-hundred and forty-three* years before the Declaration of Independence was signed! The secular media today is a horrible place for people to get any true facts about the Catholic Church. The lies and ignorance regarding the Church are palpable. Unfortunately, this is where most people get their opinions about Jesus’ Church. Our efforts for visible Christian unity will be effective when what the Catholic Church really teaches, the true history of Christianity, and Our Lord and Savior Jesus’ words in Sacred Scripture are taken into very careful account.

## **Pope John XXIII**

*“But mark this well: unless the faithful remain bound together by the same ties of virtue, worship and sacrament, and all hold fast to the same belief, they cannot be perfectly united with the Divine Redeemer, the universal Head, so as to form with Him one visible and living body.”* (Aeterna Dei Sapientia, 11/11/1961)

# The Body of Christ, The Wheat and the Chaff

The Church is “the body of Christ”. It does violence to the “body of Christ” to have it dismembered by divisions. Biblical examples of the Church being referred to as the “body of Christ” can be found at: Rom. 12:4-5, 1Cor. 10:17, 1Cor. 12:27 (“that there might be no division {schism} in the body”), Eph. 1:23, 3:6, 4:4, 4:12, 4:16, 5:23, 5:29-30, Col. 1:18, 1:24, 3:15. In Mark 3:23-25, Our Lord Jesus Christ said: ***“If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand.”***

## **St. Augustine of Hippo (392 AD)**

*“Stay close to the faithful who are good. Because there are, sad to say, believers who are evil. There are some who are called believers, though they are not. There are believers who abuse the sacraments of Christ, people who live in such a way that they themselves perish while they destroy others. They perish from their evil way of living; they destroy others by the example of their wicked lives. Do not join them, dearly beloved. Seek the good; cling to the good; be good.*

*Don't be surprised at the multitude of bad Christians who fill the church, who go up to the altar for Communion, who make a big deal of praising the bishop or priest when he speaks about good morals. Such people fulfill the prediction made by our shepherd in the psalm: 'Were I to proclaim and tell of them, they would be more than can be numbered.' (Ps. 40:5) They can be with us in the Church of this time, but after the resurrection, they will be unable to remain in the congregation of saints. The Church of this time has good mixed with bad. It is like a threshing floor, where grain is mixed with chaff, good members mixed together with evil. This threshing floor holds the harvest planted by the apostles and watered in turn by good teachers down to the present time. It has been threshed a bit by the persecution of enemies; now only the purification of the final winnowing remains to be done. And indeed He is coming, of whom you have repeated in the creed: 'He will come to judge the living and the dead.' As the Gospel says: 'His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear His threshing floor, and to gather the wheat into His granary, but the chaff He will burn with unquenchable fire.' (Luke 3:17)*

*You older faithful people should also hear what I say: May the grain rejoice with trembling, and remain, and not leave the threshing floor. May you never try, by your own judgment, to free yourself from the chaff; for you cannot remain on the threshing floor if you seek to separate yourself now from the chaff. What's more, when Christ comes -- He who judges without error -- He will not raise to the granary anything He has not found on the threshing floor. And those grains that have left the threshing floor will boast in vain about where they came from. The granary will be filled and closed. Fire will consume whatever is left outside."*

As St. Cyprian said, Jesus Christ's Church is one body; "And He is head of the body, the church..." (Col. 1:18) "So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members of one another." (Romans 12:5) Jesus said these rather frightening words: "I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in Me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in Me will be thrown out like a branch and wither; people will gather them and throw them into a fire and they will be burned." (John 15:5-6) How many people are suffering because they have left the true vine and have been led astray to false teachings? Within the safety of the loving arms of Jesus' Church, we are one family. Families should always stay together for the benefit of all! This is what Christ intended for His Church. Just as a loving father always intends his family to stay united, so God wishes His children to remain united.

Those wishing to join a church without sinners present will not find such a church upon the earth. They will search in vain "for all men have sinned and are deprived of the glory of God." (Rom. 3:23). Jesus said, "Let the wheat and weeds grow together until the harvest." (Mt. 13:24-30) So, if you are tempted to say, "But a bad pope or priest did this, or my bad Catholic neighbor did that", remember Jesus' words. Christians must remain in one Church until Jesus does the separating! Scandals arise from sinful man and they will continue to come and go; the truth of Jesus Christ's Church always remains.

### **Jesus Christ**

"You are the salt of the earth; but if salt loses its savour, wherewith shall it be salted? It is good for nothing any more but to be cast out, and to be trodden on by men." (Mt. 5:13)

### **Pope Paul VI**

*"Let us work tirelessly for the unity of Christians, for the reconciliation of all people, and for the peace of the world."*

# Summary

Jesus said there would be “**one flock and one shepherd.**” (Jn. 10:16) This flock would be consecrated in the truth (Jn.17:17), and Jesus prayed the flock would remain one (Jn. 17:21-23). The Holy Catholic Church has remained one. Only Jesus can separate. (Lk. 3:17)

Jesus, Himself, founded the Church (Mt. 16:18), saying **He** is the builder. He promised the guidance of the Holy Spirit to lead His apostles into “**all truth**” (Jn. 16:12-13), and Jesus promised to be with them until “**the consummation of the world.**” (Mt. 28:19-20) He would “**not leave them orphans.**” (Jn. 14:18) The Church is the Body of Christ. (Rom. 12:4-5)

Jesus said: “**the gates of hell would not prevail against His Church.**” (Mt. 16:18) God is almighty, all-powerful, all-knowing and in charge of His creatures. God is not a wimp that cannot even hold the Church He started together. Jesus is “the capstone”, and through Jesus “the whole structure is held together.” (Eph. 2:19-22) Jesus is the Head of His Church which is the “pillar and bulwark of truth.” (1Tim. 3:15) The purpose of the church is eternal and the wisdom of God is made manifest through her. (Eph. 18:23)

The Sacred Scriptures of the New Testament came to mankind through Jesus’ One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. The writings were gathered, deemed inspired by the Holy Spirit, preserved and spread through the Catholic Church. We owe the existence of the Holy Bible today to the Catholic Church. The Catholic Church was the only Christian Church for fifteen hundred years. Jesus’ Church existed to save souls through all those hundreds of years and will continue until the end of time.

The Church Jesus founded is precious to Him. He “nourishes and cherishes” (Eph. 5:29) His Church, and the Church is His bride. (Mk. 2:19) “**What God has joined together, let no man separate.**” (Mk. 10:9) Jesus Christ gave His authority to the apostles (Mt: 16:19, 18:17-19) to govern, instruct, interpret the scriptures, and perform the sacraments. He instituted the priesthood of the New Covenant on the night before He died.

# How the Demons Would Tremble!

## **Father John A. Hardon, S.J. (1914-2000)**

*“Unless we recover the zeal and the spirit of the first century Christians -- unless we are willing to do what they did and to pay the price that they paid, the future of our country, the days of America are numbered.”*

Father Hardon’s quote goes for other Christian countries as well. Just look at the strategic attack on Christianity throughout the world! The changing of hearts to humbly seek the truth in order to know, love and serve God is the first step in recovering the zeal needed to conquer the devil’s unrelenting attacks. Jesus prayed to His Father that His followers would be “**one**”. The great reason for His fervent prayer was revealed by Jesus when He said, “**so that the world may believe that you sent Me.**” How can people believe when they see such confusion and division in the visible body of Christ? Jesus knew this! To seek God is to seek His true Church. 1 John 5:4 says: “for whoever is begotten by God conquers the world. **And the victory over the world is our faith.**” The devil is quite aware of how powerful Christians would be should visible unity be restored! How the demons would tremble!

## **St. Leo (Pope 440-461)**

*“Then are God’s people strongest, when the hearts of all the faithful unite in one common act of holy obedience; when in the camp of the Christian army the same preparation is made on all sides for the fight and for defense. (Ep. 88.2, PL 54. 441-442)*

*“For in the Church of Christ, if love is queen, no prince of darkness can prevail. The devil’s works are then most effectually destroyed when men’s hearts are reunited in the love of God and the love of one another.” (Ep. 95.2 to the Empress Pulcheria, PL 54. 943)*

In his Apostolic Letter dated January 6, 1848, ***On the Supreme Throne of Peter the Apostle***, Pope Pius IX wrote these words of a spiritual father inviting his children in the Eastern Orthodox churches to return to union with the Holy See.

*“We thus exhort you, and we entreat you to return without delay -- to enter into communion with the Holy See of Peter in which lies the foundation of the true Church of Christ as affirmed by both the tradition of your forebears and the tradition of other ancient Fathers, as well as the very words of our Lord Jesus Christ found in the holy Gospels and that we cited to you. For it is not, and*

*never will be possible for those who wish to be separate from the Rock [Peter] on which the Church was divinely built, to be in communion with the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church.*

*As a result, no reasons can excuse failing to return to the true Church and to communion with the Holy See. As you know well, in matters touching on the profession of the divine faith, there is nothing so hard that one should not bear it for the glory of Christ and the reward of eternal life. For our part, we offer you the assurance that nothing would be sweeter to us than to see you return to our communion. Far from seeking to distress you through some prescription that would seem burdensome, We will receive you with a fatherly kindness and with the most gentle love, as per the constant custom of the Holy See.”*

All separated brothers and sisters in Christ, please come home to our Beloved Savior Jesus Christ’s Church. The heavenly treasures to be found within Jesus’ true Church are inestimable! She will welcome you with open arms! You will know in your soul that you are truly home. St. Paul said in Ephesians 4:2-6: “I, therefore, a prisoner in the Lord, beseech you that you walk worthy of the vocation in which you are called, with all humility and mildness, with patience, supporting one another in charity. **Careful to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. One body and one Spirit; as you are called in one hope of your calling. One Lord, one faith, one baptism. One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in us all.**”

In the Holy Catholic Church, there is only one baptism. She recognizes the baptism of Christian denominations as long as proper form was used. Once properly baptized, a person forever carries the indelible mark of a Christian upon their soul. By our common baptism, we are all one family; we are all children of God. We, the members of the body of Christ, are not perfect, but we are one family! With God’s help, we must unite our family! Be assured, dear ones, there is truly “No place like home!”

*“And do this because you know the time; it is the hour now for you to awake from sleep. For our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed; the night is advanced, the day is at hand. Let us then throw off the works of darkness [and] put on the armor of light.” (Rom. 13:11-13)*

## **Pope Benedict XVI**

*“It is important that Christians unite to face the great cultural and ethical challenges of the present moment, which concern the dignity and the inalienable rights of the person, the defense of life at all stages, the protection of the family, and other pressing economic and social questions.” (Message to Russian Bishops, January 29, 2009)*

*‘The Holy Father remarked on “the providential fact that prayer is at the center of the journey to unity. This reminds us once again that unity cannot be a product of mere human efforts, it is above all a gift of God. ...We do not ‘construct’ unity, God ‘constructs’ it, it comes from Him, from the mystery of the Trinity.” (VIS: Week of Christian Unity 1/19/11)*

## **Prayer of Pope Benedict XVI in “The Way of the Cross”**

*‘Lord, you were condemned to death because fear of what other people may think suppressed the voice of conscience...strengthen the quiet voice of our conscience, your own voice, in our lives. Look at us as you looked at Peter after his denial. Let your gaze penetrate our hearts and indicate the direction our lives must take...grant us ever new the grace of conversion.’*

# Proof Texts

**Three main proof texts (explained in previous pages) that Jesus founded and is in charge of His Church:**

**OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST** said:

1. “You are Peter, and upon this rock I build My church and the gates of hell 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.” (Mt. 16:18&19)

2. “But when He comes, the Spirit of truth, He will lead you into **all truth**. He will not speak on His own, but He will speak what He hears, and will declare to you the things that are coming. He will glorify Me, because He will take from what is Mine and declare it to you. Everything that the Father has is Mine; for this reason I told you that He will take from what is Mine and declare it to you.” (Jn. 16:13&15)

3. “Go therefore, teach all nations; baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and behold **I am with you all days, even to the consummation of the world.**” (Mt. 28:19-20) Jesus will never “divorce” His Church that He died to give us! (Eph. 5:22-32)

## Authoritative Church

- **John 10:16** - one shepherd to shepherd Christ’s church
- **John 15:16** - Jesus chose special men to be His Apostles
- **John 20:21** - Jesus gave the Apostles His own mission
- **Matthew 16:18** - Jesus built His Church on Peter, the rock
- **Luke 22:32, John 21:17** - Peter appointed to be chief shepherd
- **Ephesians 4:11-15** - church leaders are hierarchical
- **1 Timothy - 3:1-13, 5:17** - identifies role of bishop, priest, deacon
- **Titus 1:5** - commission for bishops to ordain priests

\*Bible verses on pages 29-31 were obtained through San Juan Catholic Seminars “Bible Cheat Sheet” which is available at Catholic.com.

# Apostolic Succession - Unity of the Old Covenant and New Covenant shown in the priesthood:

- **Ezekiel 40:13-15** - consecrate him as my priest they shall receive a perpetual priesthood throughout all future generations.
- **Malachi 2:7** - seek instruction from priest, he is God's messenger
- **John 13:20** - "Amen, Amen I say to you, whoever receives the one I send receives Me, and whoever receive Me, receives the one who sent Me."
- **John 17:17-19** - "Consecrate them in the truth. Your word is truth. As you sent Me into the world, so I sent them into the world. And I consecrate Myself for them, so that they also may be consecrated in truth."
- **John 20:21-23** - "As the Father has sent Me, so I send you." He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven, and whose sins you retain are retained." Here Jesus instituted the Sacrament of Penance/Confession. How would His apostles know what sins to forgive or retain unless they were confessed by the sinner? Jesus gave them power to forgive sins in His name.
- **Ephesians 2:20** - church built on foundation of apostles and prophets
- **Ephesians 4:11** - God gave some as apostles, others as prophets
- **1 Corinthians 12:28-29** - Some people God has designated to be first apostles, second prophets, third teachers
- **Acts 1:20** - let another take his office
- **Acts 1:25-26** - Matthias takes Judas' apostolic ministry
- **1 Timothy 4:14** - gift conferred with the laying on of hands
- **1 Timothy 5:22** - do not lay hands to readily on anyone
- **Acts 14:23** - they appointed presbyters [priests] in each church
- **2 Timothy 2:2** - what you heard from me entrust to faithful teachers
- **Titus 1:5** - appoint presbyters [priests] in every town as I directed
- The word priest, priesthood, etc. is in the Bible 1153 times!
- **Sirach 7:29-31** - "With all your soul, fear God, revere His priests... honor God and respect the priest."

# One Church

- **John 10:16** - “there shall be one fold and one shepherd”
- **John 17-21** - “I pray that they may be one, as we are one”
- **John 17:23** - “that they may be brought to perfection as one”
- **Ephesians 4:3-6** - one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father
- **Ephesians 4:4** - one body, one Spirit, called to one hope
- **Romans 12:5** - we, though many, are one body in Christ
- **Romans 15:5** - God grant you to think in harmony with one another
- **Romans 16:17** - avoid those who create dissensions
- **1 Corinthians 1:10** - I urge that there be no divisions among you
- **Philippians 2:2** - be of same mind, united in heart, thinking one thing
- **Colossians 3:15** - the peace into which you were called in one body

## Websites and Books to Help you Map your Way Home!

### Priestly Society of Blessed John Henry Cardinal Newman

Reverend Peter M.J. Stravinskas  
601 Buhler Court, Pine Beach, NJ 08741

#### Websites

[johnhenrycardinalnewman.org](http://johnhenrycardinalnewman.org)  
[newmanhousecatholicbooks.org](http://newmanhousecatholicbooks.org)  
[catholicresponsemagazine.org](http://catholicresponsemagazine.org)

#### Reading

##### **The Catholic Response Magazine**

His publication goes out six times a year and is highly recommended. Father has authored many books, some of which are currently available on the Newman House Press website. My recommendations for the topic of this book are currently out of print and are available through Amazon or Google search: *The Catholic Response*, *The Catholic Church and the Bible*, and *The Bible and the Mass*.

## Catholics Come Home

**Website:** [catholicscomehome.org](http://catholicscomehome.org)

Catholics Come Home, Inc., P.O. Box 1802, Roswell, GA 30077

## The Coming Home Network International

Founded by Marcus Grodi, Convert to Catholicism; former Protestant Pastor  
CHNI, P.O. Box 8290, Zanesville, OH 43702

**Website:** [chnetwork.org](http://chnetwork.org).

Amazing website with abundant resources, online store and conversion stories. Dedicated especially to helping Protestant Pastors map their way home. Marcus has a long standing television show on EWTN channel, “The Journey Home”.

**Book:** *Guideposts for the Journey Home: Conversion Stories with Marcus Grodi*. Available at [ewtn.com](http://ewtn.com); Religious Catalogue. Author: Marcus Grodi

## Catholic Answers

An excellent website to go type your questions into the search bar and get them answered.

**Website:** [catholic.com](http://catholic.com)

**Book:** *Catholicism and Fundamentalism: The Attack on “Romanism” by “Bible Christians”*. Author: Karl Keating, founder of Catholic Answers.

## Steve Ray

Convert to Catholicism. Steve has many informative apologetic talks.

**Website:** [catholicconvert.com](http://catholicconvert.com)

**Book:** *Crossing the Tiber: Evangelical Protestants Discover the Historical Church*. Author: Steve Ray.

## Gary Michuta

Apologist and author of many books.

**Websites:**

[handsonapologetics.com](http://handsonapologetics.com)

[garymichuta.com](http://garymichuta.com)

**Book:** *Why Catholic Bibles Are Bigger*. Author: Gary Michuta

## Eternal World Television Network (EWTN)

**Website:** ewtn.com

## Writings of the Early Church Fathers

**Website:** newadvent.org/fathers

## Papal Encyclicals

Discover the wisdom of the Popes (Holy Fathers)

**Website:** papalencyclicals.net

## Dr. Scott Hahn

Convert to Catholicism, Prolific Author, Professor and Scripture Scholar. Tons of resources and excellent biblical and historical information.

**Websites:** scotthahn.com, stpaulcenter.com

**Book:** *Rome Sweet Home* (plus so many others!) Author: Scott Hahn.

# Additional Recommended Books

### **Catechism of the Catholic Church:**

Available on several websites including Catholic.com and in Catholic book and gift shops.

### **Where We Got the Bible, Our Debt to the Catholic Church:**

Author: Henry G. Graham. A MUST READ available at tanbooks.com.

### **We Believe: A Survey of the Catholic Faith:**

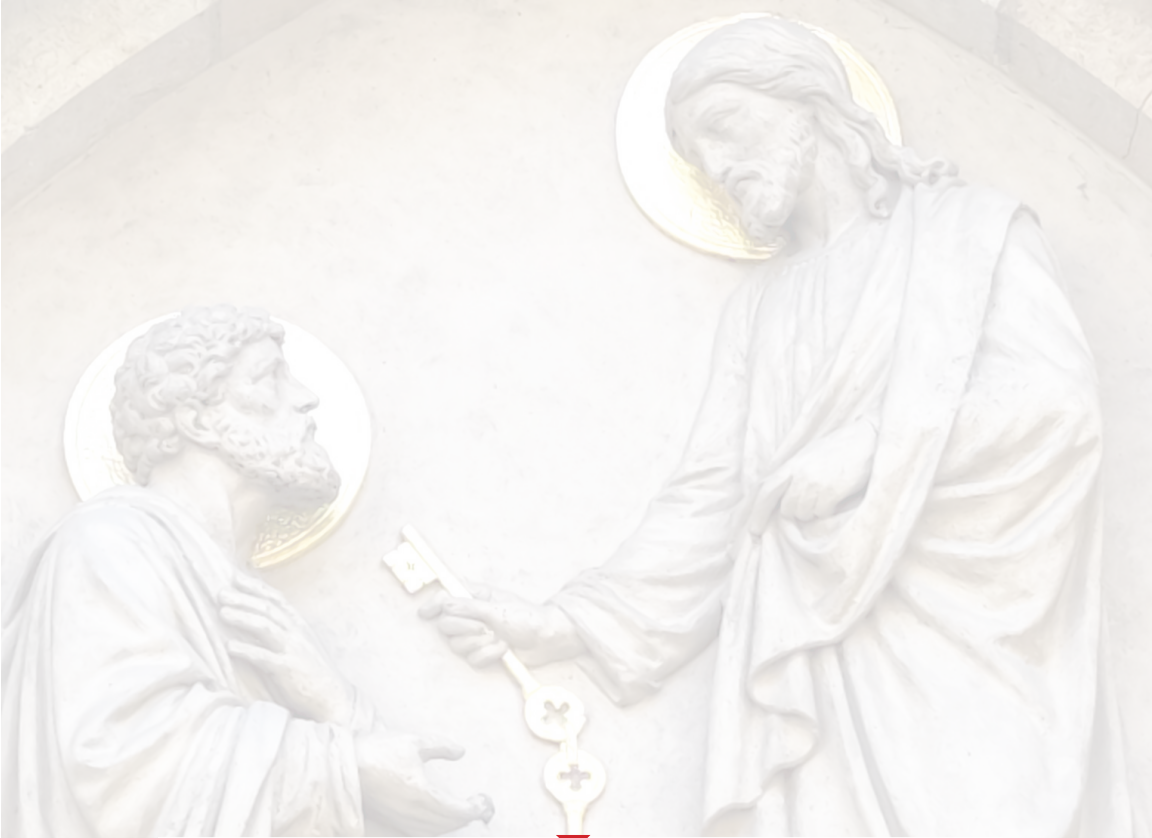
Author: Father Oscar Lukefahr. Available on a Google search.

Since the Church is almost 2000 years old, written texts are abundantly plentiful! The Vatican Library alone contains over 1.6 million books, 75,000 manuscripts, 8600 incunabula (an early printed book, especially one printed before 1501) and more! “Seek and ye shall find”!

### **Tertullian (197 AD)**

*“We are a society with a single religious feeling, a single unity of discipline, a single bond of hope.”* (Apology 39,1)

\*\*Pope St. Leo the Great, please pray for us!



*“And I tell you, you are Peter, and upon this rock **I will build My Church**, and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”*

~ Matthew 16:18-19