

CATECHESIS 6

THIRD QUARTER CONCEPT NOTES

THE CHURCH IS ONE

(**SCRIPTURE TEXT: CORINTHIANS 12:12-20**)

The Church has many members who all belong to one family of God. These members have different emotional, mental and physical characteristics. Their opinions, ideas and characteristics are different because God has given each one unique gifts, intellect and free will. Although there is diversity in ideas and characteristics, the members of the Church are united in Christ. It is He who is the source of oneness in the Church.

Being united as a family, we should not make any fellow member feel hurt, sad or bitter. Humble and cooperative Christ's Body live in peace and harmony with one another.

In prayer, let us ask God to make us humble and cooperative so that we can promote unity and fraternity in the Church.

CHURCH TEACHING

The Church is One because of her:

1. 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
2. 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."
3. "Soul": "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."

THE CHURCH IS HOLY

SCRIPTURE TEXT: EPHESIANS 5:21-30

St. Paul compares the love of Jesus for the Church to the love of a husband for his wife. According to the scripture text husbands and wives should submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. The husband has authority over his wife just as Christ has authority over the Church. Meanwhile, wives must submit themselves completely to their husbands just as the Church submits itself to Christ.

Christ finds us in our sins and he takes charge of us, even to the ultimate consequences: he gives his life to purify us. This is the way to show the main quality of Christian love, which is faithfulness. The self-gift of the spouse is permanent and from that moment on, each will do his best to save the other, that is, to help the other grow and be better.

As members of the Church we are called to holiness by practicing charity or love for one another.

In prayer, we ask God to help us love others which will lead us to become holy

CHURCH TEACHING

Holiness means purity or integrity of moral character.

The Church is held as a matter of faith, to be unfailingly holy. This is because Christ, the Son of God, who with the Father and the Spirit, is hailed as 'alone holy,' loved the Church as His Bride, giving Himself up for her so as to sanctify her; He joined her to Himself as His body and endowed her with the gift of the Holy Spirit for the glory of God. The church, then, is the holy People of God, and her members are called "saints." (CCC, 823)

United with Christ, the Church is sanctified by Him, through Him, and with Him, she becomes sanctifying. "All the activities of the Church are directed, as toward their end, to the sanctification of men in Christ and the glorification of God." (CCC, 824)

Because the Church is endowed with a real (yet still imperfect) sanctity, all her members are called to the perfection of sanctity by which the Father himself is perfect. Charity is the soul of the holiness to which all are called: it "governs, shapes, and perfects all the means of sanctification.

(CCC 825-826)

Christ came to expiate sins. The Church clasps sinners to her bosom and follows the path of penance and renewal. All Church members, even her ministers, must acknowledge that they are sinners. (CCC 827)

By canonizing saints, the Church recognizes the Spirit's power of holiness within her. "The saints have always been the true source of renewal in the most difficult moments in the Church's history" (Pope John Paul I). Their holiness is the hidden source of apostolic zeal. (CCC 828)

In Mary, the Church has already reached a holiness that is without stain or wrinkle. Let all eyes turn to Mary, in whom the Church is "all holy."

(CCC 829)



THE CHURCH IS CATHOLIC

SCRIPTURE TEXT: Matthew 28:16-20

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

Jesus, after His resurrection, appeared to the disciples and told them to make disciples of all nations. To do this they should go out to all nations and proclaim the good news that Jesus Christ brought into the world. The good news is that God has sent his Son to save all people. It is through Christ that all men and women are saved. People attain salvation when they truly become followers of Christ, following Christ in their thoughts, words and actions. As Christ lived, so we Christians must live also. In this way, we also become children of God and heirs to the kingdom of heaven.

As Christians, we receive the Truth, who is Christ. We are to proclaim Jesus to all nations by our thoughts, words and actions.

CHURCH TEACHING

The word "catholic" means "universal," in the sense of "according to the totality" or "in keeping with the whole." The Church is catholic in a double sense:

1. The Church is catholic because Christ is present in her. "Where there is Christ Jesus, there is the Catholic Church."
2. The Church is catholic because she has been sent out by Christ on a mission to the whole of the human race: All men are called to belong to the new People of God. This People, therefore, while remaining one and only one, is to be spread throughout the whole world and to all ages in order that the design of God's will may be fulfilled: he made human nature one in the beginning and has decreed that all his children who were scattered should be finally gathered together as one.

THE CHURCH IS APOSTOLIC

SCRIPTURE TEXT: JOHN 21: 15-17

The dialogue between Jesus and Peter expresses what being a Christian is all about. Jesus asks us every day if we love him in a special and exclusive way:

Do you love me more than these do? We answer, "Yes," despite our miseries, as Peter did; Jesus then invites us to follow him anew, out of love, and to share with him the responsibility of caring for the people of God. There is no better way of following Jesus than by giving up our lives for his mission.

Jesus orders Peter to care for the Church and, with this, orders us to obey. We obey freely and conscientiously, not because the shepherds are always capable and infallible, but rather because they perform a necessary function of authority.

We believe that historically they are the successors of the apostles, and for that reason have received their mission from God.

CHURCH TEACHING

The Church is apostolic because she is founded on the apostles, in three ways:

- she was and remains built on "the foundation of the Apostles," the witnesses chosen and sent on mission by Christ himself;
- with the help of the Spirit dwelling in her, the Church keeps and hands on the teaching, the "good deposit," the salutary words she has heard from the apostles;
- she continues to be taught, sanctified, and guided by the apostles until Christ's return, through their successors in pastoral office: the college of bishops, "assisted by priests, in union with the successor of Peter, the Church's supreme pastor."

SPECIAL LESSONS

COMMUNION OF SAINTS

1. "We believe in the communion of all the faithful of Christ, those who are pilgrims on earth, the dead who are being purified, and the blessed in heaven, all together forming one Church; and we believe that in this communion, the merciful love of God and his saints is always [attentive] to our prayers"

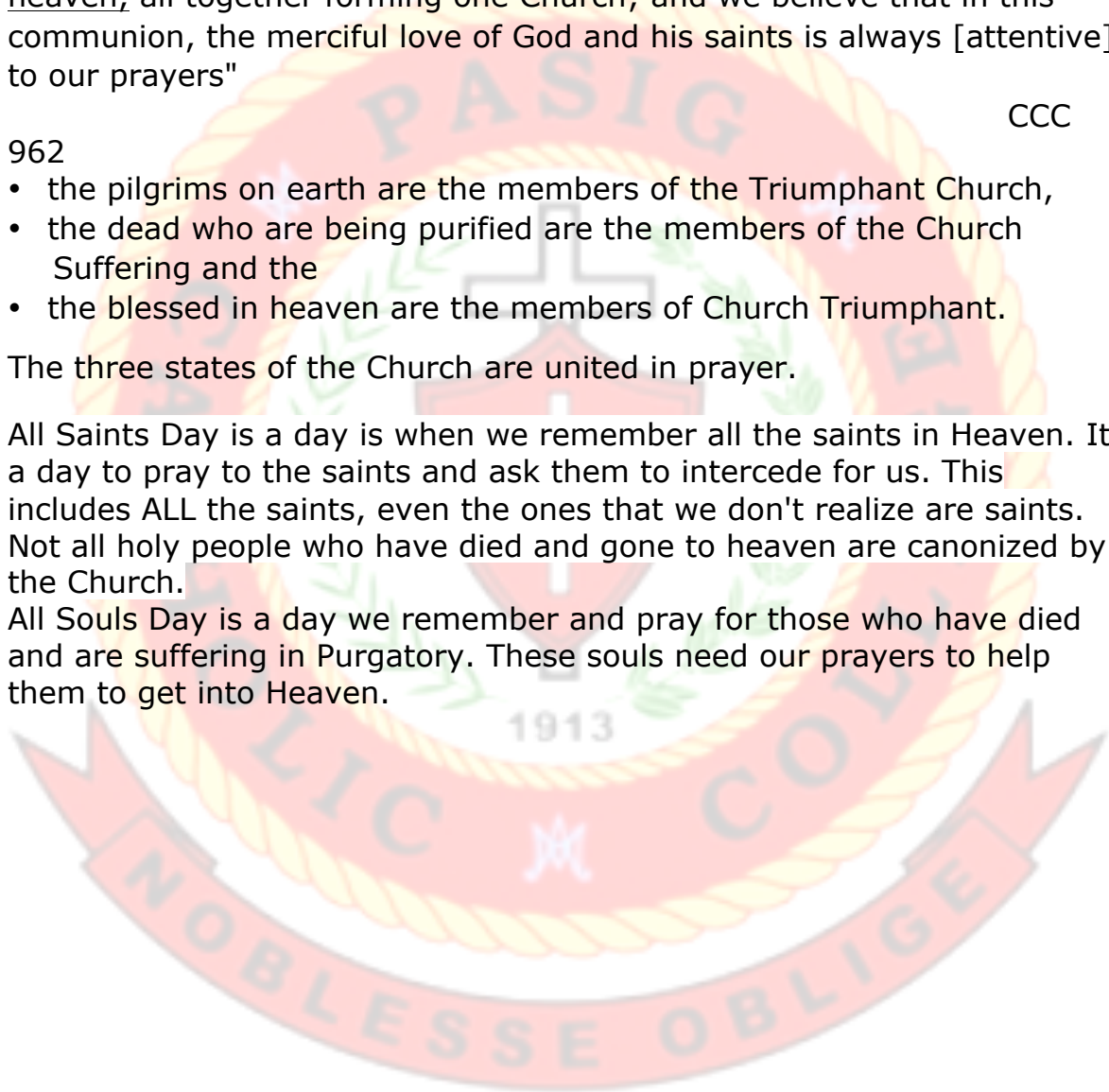
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- the pilgrims on earth are the members of the Triumphant Church,
- the dead who are being purified are the members of the Church Suffering and the
- the blessed in heaven are the members of Church Triumphant.

The three states of the Church are united in prayer.

2. All Saints Day is a day is when we remember all the saints in Heaven. It's a day to pray to the saints and ask them to intercede for us. This includes ALL the saints, even the ones that we don't realize are saints. Not all holy people who have died and gone to heaven are canonized by the Church.
3. All Souls Day is a day we remember and pray for those who have died and are suffering in Purgatory. These souls need our prayers to help them to get into Heaven.



WE CELEBRATE THE SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING

Truly, Jesus is the King of all kings. He is the Son of God and our Savior.

This Sunday marks the end of the Catholic Church's Liturgical Year. As another year ends, the Church wants to remind us of the reality that as we all came from God and we shall return to Him. God is the source and God is likewise the destination of us all. This is why the Church celebrates the Solemnity of Christ the King of the Universe. We profess in our Christian faith that at the end of our lives, we must all be accountable to Him: "He will come again to judge the living and the dead." But this we must not fear, for we believe that in the Kingdom of God, justice is based on mercy and love.

. When Christ comes again as king and ruler, "God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying; neither shall there be any more pain " (Revelation 21:4).

However, this feast tells us that we must make the Kingdom of God happen in our midst. God is King not only of the future but of the present. The Kingdom of God is already among us. It is our duty to make every effort to make Christ King of our lives. We can only do that if we regard him as the center of our lives. We must make God the center of all our relationships. We must see to it that we are faithful and true to the gospel values of the Kingdom.

WE CELEBRATE ADVENT

John the Baptist proclaimed about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He told the people to repent for their sins and help those in need as preparations for the coming of Jesus Christ.

The time of preparation for the coming of Jesus is called Advent.

The word Advent derives from the Latin word "adventus", meaning coming. The Lord is coming.

During Advent we recall the history of God's people and reflect on how the prophecies and promises of the Old Testament were fulfilled.

WE CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS

God sent us His Son, Jesus to save us, to love us, to bring us back to God the Father and to share with us his divine life. He came to save us from our sins. We remember Jesus' birth on Christmas Day. Let us allow Him to be alive in our hearts not only on Christmas Day but every single day of our lives.

