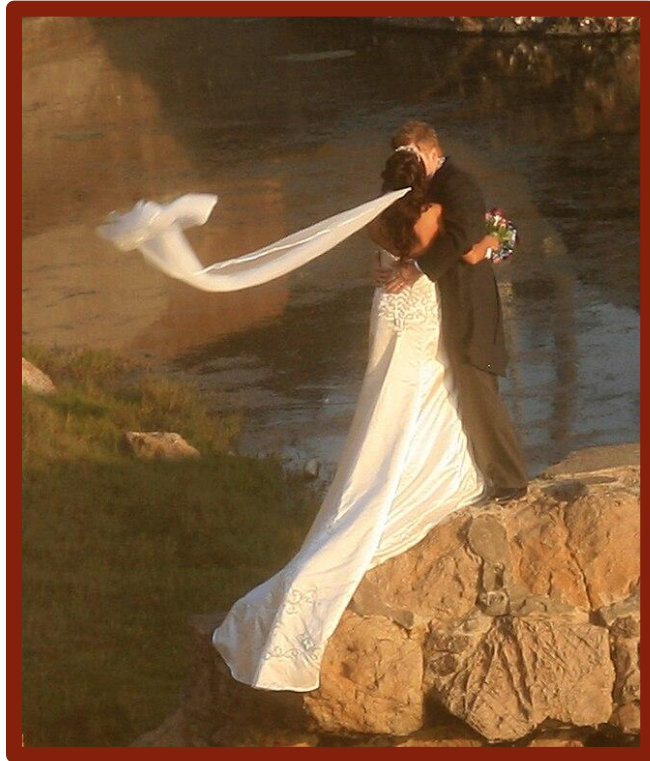


1. THE CHURCH GIVES LIFE

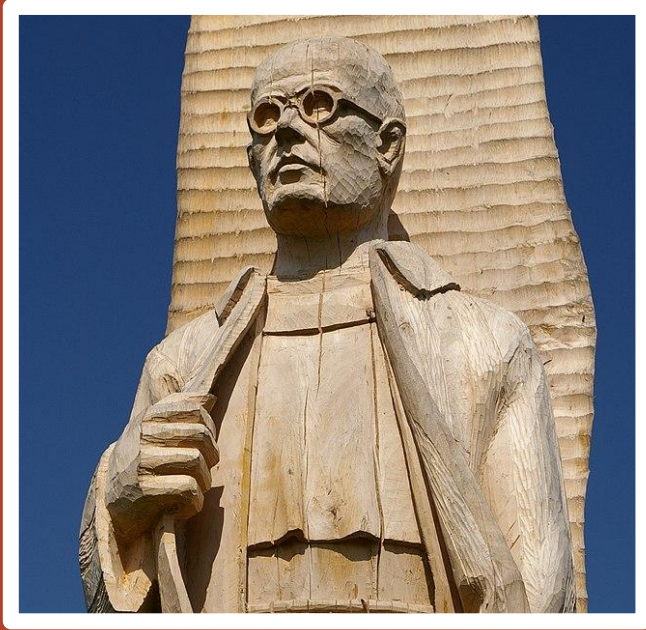


The Church is the Bride of Christ



‘Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her... the two will become one flesh.’ This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church.’ Eph 5:21-32

Self-Giving Love



Just like marriage requires self-giving love, our relationship with God also requires that we reciprocate this kind of selfless love toward God and Neighbor.

No Greater Love

Key
Vocab



St. Gianna Molla with her daughter.

Jesus said that there is no greater love than to give your life for another person. Saints like Gianna Molla and Maximilian Kolbe show that this kind of radical love is possible.

Ekklesia

Key
Vocab



The Greek word *ekklesia* literally means, “people called together”. It also means ‘church’, people called together in love. The study of the church is called ecclesiology.

We are the Church

- Those who are baptized as Catholic and practice their faith are members of the “visible” Church.
- The ‘church’ is also a reference to all Christians who are baptized.
- The Church in some way is also a spiritual reality that extends her reach into all hearts who long for God.



New Covenant

Key
Vocab



The climax of salvation history; the coming of Jesus Christ, who is the fullness of God's revelation. The sacred promise of salvation between God and his people, the Church, in Jesus Christ.

The Church and the New Covenant

- Step by step God taught and prepared this people, making known in its history both Himself and His will and plan.
- All these things, however, were done by way of preparation and as a figure of that new and perfect covenant...
- In the Church and Eucharist, He calls a people together made up of Jews and Gentiles, which would be one, not according to the flesh, but in the Spirit, and it would be the new people of God.



**COVENANT
WITH
NOAH**
(Genesis 8-9)



**COVENANT
WITH
ABRAHAM**
(Genesis 12-7)



**SINAI
COVENANT**
(Exodus 19-20)



**COVENANT
WITH
DAVID**
(2 Samuel 7)



**JESUS
CHRIST,
THE NEW
COVENANT**
(Hebrews 1:1-2)

The Kingdom of God

Key
Vocab



The world as God would have it be. A state of “already, but not yet.” God’s Kingdom has been established in the Church but it has not yet transformed all creation; that will not take place until the end of history.

Turn and Talk

Explain the “already, not yet” dimension of the Kingdom of God in your own words.



The Keys of the Kingdom

“And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church... 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



The Church is Necessary for Salvation

- “Outside the Church there is no salvation” (CCC, 846, quoting St. Cyprian).
- This is so because Jesus is necessary for salvation.
- Without Jesus, who has made the Church his Body, there is no salvation.
- All who recognize that the Church is the Body of Christ are called to be part of that Church.



The Church is Human

- The Church on earth is made up of imperfect human beings.
- The Church is a hospital for sinners.
- It's composed of weeds and wheat.
- Everyone, including Church leaders, has a sin problem.



The Church is Divine

- God the Father planned the Church.
- Jesus Christ is the head of his bride, the Church.
- The Holy Spirit dwells within the Church, as a soul to a body, giving it supernatural life and sanctifying it with grace.



Memorize It

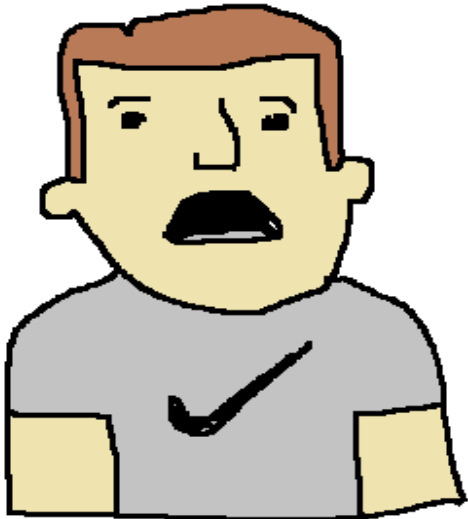
Key
Verse



“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: 19

Wasn't the Catholic Church created by the Emperor Constantine when he made Christianity the official religion of the Roman Empire?



“No. The Catholic Church can trace its unbroken chain of apostolic leadership all the way back to Peter and the Apostles. Once the church began to grow worldwide, the word ‘Catholic’ was used to describe it as being universal but it is the same Church that Jesus himself instituted.”

**Challenge
Question**