


Comparative Religion I

CATHOLICISM

CATHOLIC CHURCH IN GENERAL




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1

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Pope Francis

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2

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INNOCENT III, 1198-1216, The Most Powerful Pope

His Holiness Pope John XXIII

Former Pope - JOHN PAUL II

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3

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MAP SHOWING VATICAN CITY IN ITALY



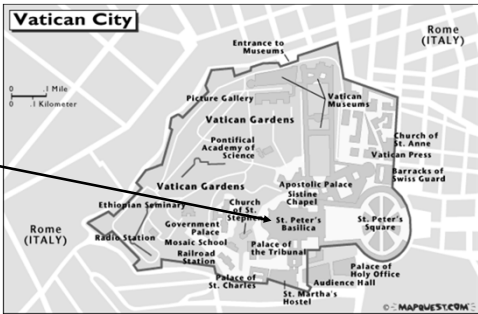
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4

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MAP OF VATICAN CITY AND ST. PETER'S




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5

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SAINT PETER'S IN VATICAN CITY



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ST. PETER'S

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DOMES IN ST. PETER'S

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Xmas Mass in St. Peter's Square

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THE SISTINE CHAPEL

Sistine Chapel

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11

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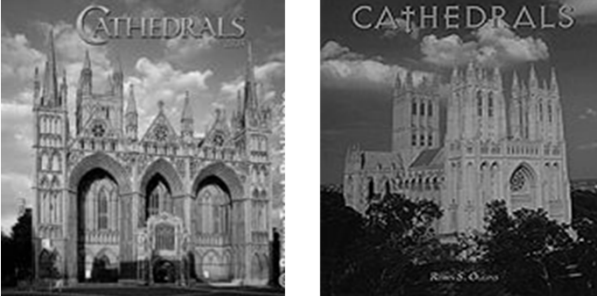
MICHAELANGELO'S ART

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12

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13

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NOTRE DAME CATHEDRALS



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Founded in 33 AD by Jesus Christ, though Peter and his successors (Popes) are highly honored as Vicars of Christ.

God is a Trinity of three persons in ONE. Father, Son and Holy Spirit are co-equal and co-eternal. This was a doctrine as of 325 AD and was codified in 451 AD.

Catholics believe in the Bible AND Tradition. Catholic Bibles have seven extra books called the Apocrypha.

Catholics and Eastern Orthodox were together as the main Christian religion until they split in 1054 AD.

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15

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The two churches split over the "filioque" clause added by the Church at Rome in the Nicene Creed. The clause had to do with the procession of the Holy Spirit. The Orthodox said the Holy Spirit came only from the Father. The Catholics added "and the Son" to the creed in section VIII indicating the procession was from both.

There were more differences that had occurred. The Bishop of Rome in the west was isolated from the other centers of Christianity in the East. He was often appealed to in disputes occurring in the East since he was so far away from them geographically.

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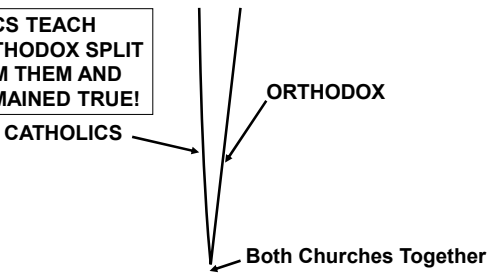
16

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Catholic Church in General

CATHOLICS TEACH THAT ORTHODOX SPLIT OFF FROM THEM AND THEY REMAINED TRUE!



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17

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THE NICENE CREED (325 AD)

- I. I Believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.
- II. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, Begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by Whom all things were made.
- III. Who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from Heaven; and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man.

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18



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Catholic Church in General

THE NICENE CREED (325 AD)

IV. And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried.


V. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures.

VI. And ascended into Heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father

VII. And He shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

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19



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The Nicene Creed (325 AD)

VIII. And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord, the Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father; (CATHOLICS ADD "AND THE SON.") Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; Who spake by the Prophets.

IX. I believe in one Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church.


X. I Acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins.

XI. I look for the resurrection of the dead.

XII. And the life of the world to come. Amen.

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20



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Catholics teach that the Orthodox split off from them. The Orthodox teach that the Catholics split off from them.

The split between them was made more concrete when the crusaders from the West deliberately sacked Constantinople (the chief city of the Orthodox at that time) in 1204.

The Government of the Roman Catholic Church is heirarchical with the Pope being infallible when he speaks ex-cathedra. That is, he must pronounce himself to be speaking for the whole church on matters of doctrine and faith.

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21



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The Church is three-faceted.


1. The Church Triumphant – the Souls in heaven
2. The Church Expectant – the Souls in purgatory
3. The Church Militant – the Catholic congregations on earth

The Catholic Church exists to:

1. Fulfill God's mission – preach the gospel to the world
2. To convert the world
3. To provide a place of worship and to administer the sacraments

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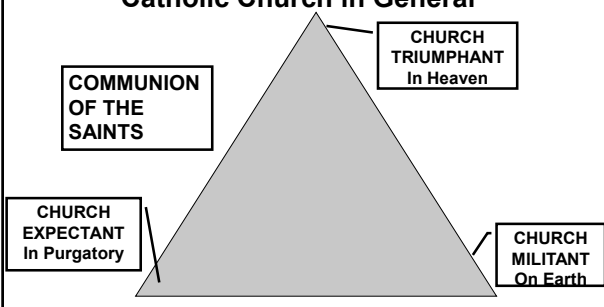
22



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23



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Catholics believe they are the true church because:

1. They are ONE – They have unity of their faith
2. They are HOLY – God is in their Church
3. They are - CATHOLIC – They are worldwide in scope and the largest of all Christian denominations.
4. They are APOSTOLIC – Succession of bishops from the Apostles

They are thus, ONE, HOLY, CATHOLIC, APOSTOLIC church.

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Catholic Church in General

MASS is the most important service to the Catholics. It is their church service and consists of a series of prayers and adoration towards God and Jesus Christ. The major part of the mass is that of the Eucharist (Lord's Supper, Communion) in which Christ offers Himself in a bloodless manner through the ministry of the priest. Members partake of the unleavened wafer and usually NOT the wine. The priest usually drinks the wine. This is to avoid unnecessary spilling of the "blood of Christ". Since Christ is present in both the bread and the wine, only one symbol is necessary.

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To miss mass is a mortal sin unless one has a good reason such as sickness.

Mass is usually the same every week with slight variations in the "sermonette" section or if it is around a holy time.

Members stand, kneel and sit at various times during mass. They recite creeds or passages together. There is usually a prayer book to follow and bells ring to cue the audience when to stand, kneel or sit.

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26



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SALVATION means Heaven for the saints. Purgatory is for those with stain of sin remaining upon their souls (Most Catholics are in this category). Hell is for those who die in mortal sin.

The hope of Catholics is to experience the Beatific Vision. To gaze on Christ in His glory. They also look forward to having fellowship with other heavenly saints.

At death the soul is immediately judged (Particular Judgment) and goes to its assigned location. At the General Judgment, the body is resurrected to be reunited with the soul to experience either bliss or punishment.

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27



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SEVEN BASIC PRECEPTS FOR CATHOLICS

1. Attend mass on specified days – Sundays and holidays
2. Fasting on appropriate days
3. Confession – At least once per year – before Easter
4. Easter Communion – To partake of Eucharist at this time

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SEVEN BASIC PRECEPTS FOR CATHOLICS (continued)

5. Support the Church – To support your parish and charities
6. Observe the laws of marriage
7. To help spread the message – bring Catholicism to others

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29



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OTHER BELIEFS WE WILL EXAMINE

- ✓ SACRAMENTS
- ✓ MASS
- ✓ LAW, GRACE, SIN
- ✓ HEAVEN, HELL, PURGATORY, AND JUDGMENT
- ✓ GOD, THE BIBLE, TRADITION
- ✓ MARIOLOGY
- ✓ THE PRIESTHOOD AND THE NUNS
- ✓ CELIBACY

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30



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SIZE OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

The Roman Catholic Church numbers over 1.2 billion members (Pew Research Center) and is in virtually every country on earth where there are Christians. They are prominent in Europe, Latin America, South America, and North America. Their world headquarters is in the Vatican City in Italy. Vatican City is a country on its own with its own representatives and leaders. Pope Benedict XVI had been pope for eight years and has been succeeded by the current Pope Francis.

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31



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TWO "INS" AND ONE "IM"

- **INDEFECTION** – The Church will remain until the end (Matthew 16:18)
- **INFALLIBILITY** – Means to be free from error. The Pope is said to be infallible when he speaks ex-cathedra ("from the chair"-officially), but this does not mean he is impeccable
- **IMPECCABILITY** – Means to be free from sin. The Pope is not free from sin

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32



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Catholic Church in General

STRUCTURE OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

- **POPE** = Bishop of Rome – Vatican City
- **ARCHBISHOP** – Administrator over several districts – called an Archdiocese
- **CARDINAL** – Administrative supports – At the Vatican
- **BISHOP** – Over a Diocese (geographical group of churches)

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33



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Catholic Church in General

STRUCTURE OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

- **PRIEST** – Oversees a Parish – may include a school or convent of nuns
- **DEACON** – Assists the Priest
- **LAITY** – The members of the church apart from the priests

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34



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WHAT CATHOLICS DO NOT BELIEVE!

- 1) That the Pope is God and can do no wrong
- 2) That anybody or anything may be worshipped except God
- 3) That the Virgin Mary is equal to God
- 4) That images may be worshipped
- 5) That indulgences give permission to commit sin

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35



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WHAT CATHOLICS DO NOT BELIEVE!

- 6) That a Mass can be bought
- 7) That forgiveness of sin can be bought
- 8) That sin can be forgiven without true repentance
- 9) That scapulars, medals, crucifixes give graces without the proper attitude of the user

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36



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WHAT CATHOLICS DO NOT BELIEVE!

- 10) That non-Catholics will all be damned
- 11) That all Catholics will go to heaven
- 12) That the Bible is the only rule of faith
- 13) That anybody may interpret the Bible

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37



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WHAT CATHOLICS DO NOT BELIEVE!

- 14) That our Lord Jesus Christ established many churches
- 15) That outward piety is profitable without charity of the spirit
- 16) That all religions are the same

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38



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AMERICAN CATHOLICS

- 70% Don't attend church regularly
- 66% Say birth control is OK
- 50% Say the Church is most important in their lives
- 58% Don't go to confession even once a year

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AMERICAN CATHOLICS

- 57% Say divorce is OK
- 54% Say it is OK to skip communion at Easter
- 51% Say it is OK to marry outside the Church
- 45% Say it is OK to not believe the infallibility of the Pope

(AMERICAN CATHOLICS)

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WHAT WOULD MAKE A
PERSON WANT TO JOIN THE
CATHOLIC CHURCH?

NAME SOME MAJOR DOCTRINAL
DEPARTURES FROM THE
SCRIPTURES!

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41



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THE END

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42