



COMING TOGETHER OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

“In Christian usage, the word ‘church’ designates the liturgical assembly,¹⁴¹ but also the local community¹⁴² or the whole universal community of believers.¹⁴³ These three meanings are inseparable. ‘The Church’ is the People that God gathers in the whole world. She exists in local communities and is made real as a liturgical, above all a Eucharistic, assembly. She draws her life from the word and the Body of Christ and so herself becomes Christ’s Body.” *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 752

¹⁴¹ Cf. 1 Cor 11:18; 14:19, 28, 34, 35.

¹⁴² Cf. 1 Cor 1:2; 16:1.

¹⁴³ Cf. 1 Cor 15:9; Gal 1:13; Phil 3:6.

“The Church is in history, but at the same time she transcends it. It is only ‘with the eyes of faith’¹⁸³ that one can see her in her visible reality and at the same time in her spiritual reality as bearer of divine life.” CCC 770

“The one mediator, Christ, established and ever sustains here on earth his holy Church, the community of faith, hope, and charity, as a visible organization through which he communicates truth and grace to all men.”¹⁸⁴ The Church is at the same time:

- a ‘society structured with hierarchical organs and the mystical body of Christ;
- the visible society and the spiritual community;
- the earthly Church and the Church endowed with heavenly riches.’¹⁸⁵

These dimensions together constitute ‘one complex reality which comes together from a human and a divine element’.¹⁸⁶

The Church is essentially both human and divine, visible but endowed with invisible realities, zealous in action and dedicated to contemplation, present in the world, but as a pilgrim, so constituted that in her the human is directed toward and subordinated to the divine, the visible to the invisible, action to contemplation, and this present world to that city yet to come, the object of our quest.¹⁸⁷ CCC 771

¹⁸³ *Roman Catechism* I, 10, 20.

¹⁸⁴ LG 8 § 1.

¹⁸⁵ LG 8.

¹⁸⁶ LG 8.

¹⁸⁷ SC 2; cf. Heb 13:14.

What Did You Learn About the Coming Together of the Christian Church?

for younger saints

1. When is the birthday of the Church?
 - a. on Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit came
 - b. on the same day as Mary's birthday
 - c. on Christmas, when it is Jesus' birthday
2. What did the apostles do after Pentecost?
 - a. They spread out, sharing the Good News with everyone they met.
 - b. They all stayed in Israel, telling the Jewish people about Jesus.
3. How did Saul of Tarsus become a dedicated Christian?
 - a. He was baptized by John the Baptist in the Jordan River.
 - b. Peter told him about Jesus.
 - c. Jesus spoke to him asking, "*Why are you persecuting me?*"
4. How did the Apostle Paul spread the Good News of Jesus?
 - a. He made four missionary journeys, covering thousands of miles.
 - b. He hosted a web site and reached out to people all over the world.
 - c. He wrote many of the books of the New Testament.
5. You become a member of the Church by:
 - a. being baptized.
 - b. just being born.
 - c. paying dues and signing a membership agreement.
6. The Church is the place where we gather to celebrate Mass.
True False
7. The Church is all of us, giving our lives to do God's work.
True False
8. The Church is the Body of Christ.
True False
9. Recite your memory verse.

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"...you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church." Matthew 16:18

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- True
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"...you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 16:18-19