

The Mission of the Catholic Church

Lesson 13 Summary

Lesson Learning Objectives

- The participants will grow deeper in understanding the Church's mission as instituted by Christ.
- The participants will explore the meaning and significance of the scriptural images of the Church.

Content Summary

1. The word *Church* designates the people who have been called together by Jesus to continue his mission, to proclaim the Good News that through Christ sin and death have been overcome and humanity's broken relationship with God has been restored.
2. The Church is both a sign of God's saving power and a cause for making God's saving power real in the world.
3. The mystery is that the Church is at once both visible and spiritual, human and divine. In the spiritual dimension, the Holy Trinity is at work to save and sanctify (make holy) the human race.
4. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, the early Christians adopted some guiding images that help us to better understand how the Church carries out her mission.
5. The image of the People of God emphasizes the role of God the Father in calling a people to himself.
6. The image of the Body of Christ emphasizes Christ's mission and his role as the mediator between God and humanity.
7. The image of the Temple of the Holy Spirit emphasizes the important role of the Holy Spirit in leading the Church to holiness.
8. The four Marks of the Church—*One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic*—each describe something essential about the Church and its mission.
9. To say the Church is one means the unity of the Church reflects the unity of the Trinity.
10. To be holy is to be united with God, to be spiritually perfect and free from all sin and evil.
11. The word *catholic* means "universal" or "comprehensive." The Church is comprehensive because she is founded directly on God's Revelation in Jesus Christ, and universal because she has a mission from Jesus Christ to the whole human race.
12. *Apostolic* means that the Church is founded on the Apostles and empowered by the Holy Spirit to pass on the essential truths revealed by God through Christ.

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