

The Church Is One

Introduction

We say that the Church is one because the Church's example for unity and source of unity is the three Divine Persons in the Trinity: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Unity does not mean uniformity, however, as the Church is diverse in many ways. The unity of the Church is sustained by God's love and can be seen through several bonds, including the profession of faith, common worship, and Apostolic Succession.

Unity among Christians has been threatened over time by heresies, schism, and other breaks. The results of these breaks can be seen today in the different Christian denominations that exist.

What You Will Do

You will travel via the Internet to the Church in various places throughout the world. You and your fellow travelers will prepare a brief presentation to share with the class about what you learn about one of four themes:

- the Church united in charity
- the Church united in the profession of one faith
- the Church united in the common celebration of worship and Sacrament
- the Church united in Apostolic Succession

Where You Will Begin Your Travels

The sites you visit will depend on the theme assigned to your travel group. The Web sites listed here will take you to many places that will introduce you to basic information. They may also point you to side trips that will enrich your experience. You are not limited to these Web sites for your travels.

- your own diocesan Web site
- the Web site for the religious order(s) that staff your school or local parish
- the Vatican Web site
- the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Web site
- the Catholic News Service Web site



- the Spring Hill College Theology Library Web site
- the Catholic Relief Services Web site

You may supplement what you learn on your Internet travels with print resources, recordings, or other artifacts that may be available in your school library, sacred vessels or liturgy aids from the school chapel, or other appropriate materials that you may be able to locate in the larger community.

Your Travel Log

You will visit at least three different places in the world. You will keep a log of what you learn at each site. You must remember that the purpose of your travels is to investigate your theme as it is lived or expressed throughout the world. Therefore you and your travel group must visit the Church on different continents (or in different cultures). Your log will be titled with the theme of your assignment.

Each log entry will include the following:

- Web address
- evidence that this is a credible source for your information (sponsoring organization, author, and so on), especially important for some of the sites that are not on the list of suggested starting points
- what you learned
- how what you learned adds to your understanding of your assigned theme

Telling the Story of Your Travels

Your travel group will meet to develop a way of sharing your travel experience, presenting what you learned, with the class. This may be a travel brochure, an oral presentation, a poster, a PowerPoint presentation, an annotated map, a display with explanation of artifacts, or another form of creative expression. You will provide each class member with a handout that highlights your theme.

