

Models of the Church Chart

Model	Institution
Key Words	teach, sanctify, govern Magisterium The Church authority comes from Apostolic Tradition.
Signs and Functions	Pope, bishops, priests <i>Catechism of the Catholic Church</i> Canon Law diocesan directories
Members	all those who formally recognize themselves in relationship to an official Church community and Church teachings
Connection to Jesus	Matthew 16:13–20
Early Church	Acts of the Apostles 6:1–7
Model	Mystical Body / Communion
Key Words	People of God fellowship unity and diversity of gifts in community Christ is the Head Church is the Body
Signs and Functions	prayer groups intimate relationship
Members	all who share in the body of Christ through the grace of the Holy Spirit
Connection to Jesus	John 15:5
Early Church	Acts of the Apostles 4:32–37
Model	Herald
Key Words	Word of God conversion witness salvation
Signs and Functions	Bible studies evangelization missions media



Members	all those who give witness to their life in Christ and see the Word of God as key
Connection to Jesus	Matthew 28:16–20
Early Church	Acts of the Apostles 2:37–41
Model	Servant
Key Words	service to the world dialogue liberation justice peace prophetic
Signs and Functions	hospitals Saint Vincent de Paul Society Catholic Campaign for Human Development Habitat for Humanity Catholic Relief Services
Members	all who serve the needs of others as Christ did; “Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.” (Matthew 25:40)
Connection to Jesus	John 13:3–15
Early Church	Acts of the Apostles 5:12–16
Model	Sacrament
Key Words	grace nourished by the Sacraments “Be what you have received.”
Signs and Functions	liturgy light and salt for the world (to be a sign of Christ) communal prayer source of grace
Members	all who share in the liturgical life of the Church so as to be transformed by grace to be a sign of Christ in the world
Connection to Jesus	Luke 21:19–20
Early Church	Acts of the Apostles 2:42–47

Chart adapted from notes provided by Dr. Philip Verhalen, STL, based on *Models of the Church*, by Avery Dulles, SJ (Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1974).



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