

The Mission of the Church

Chapter 22 Summary

Chapter Learning Objectives

- The participants will differentiate between the Church and other types of communities.
- The participants will explore how God calls everyone to be a part of the Church.
- The participants will identify how various images help us to understand the mystery of the Church.

Content Summary

1. The word *church* means “convocation”: a community of people who gather in response to a call.
2. The people who respond to God’s call are one people through faith and Baptism, are united in love by the Holy Spirit, and are the Body of Christ in the world.
3. Jesus founded the Church during his earthly ministry. Since the Passion, death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus, the Church has been working to fulfill her mission of bringing the Good News of salvation to all people.
4. Since the time of the Apostles Peter and Paul, the Church has been described in these images: People of God, Body of Christ, and Temple of the Holy Spirit.
5. The Jews understood themselves to be the People of God, the Chosen Ones through whom God would save the world. The first Christians came to see that they were God’s people, God’s Chosen Ones, through Christ and the Holy Spirit.
6. The Church is the Body of Christ because all of her members are united to Christ, the Head. The entire Church gets life and nourishment from Christ, especially through the Eucharist.
7. The Church is the Temple of the Holy Spirit because the Holy Spirit dwells in the Church as a whole and in each member of the Church. The Holy Spirit is the center or soul of the Church’s life.
8. Two other images of the Church are (1) the Church as Bride of Christ and (2) the Church as a sacrament, making visible the communion we share with God.
9. The Marks of the Church are essential features of the Church: The Church is One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic.

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