

PRAYER FOR THE YEAR OF MERCY

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father, and have told us that whoever sees you sees God. Show us your face and we will be saved. You are the visible face of the invisible Father, of the God who manifests his power above all by forgiveness and mercy; let the Church be your visible face in the world. Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with its anointing, so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord, and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind.

Amen.

Pope Francis

JESUS PROCLAIMS HIS CHURCH
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Adult Catechism - chapters 3 & 10; also p. 126-134.
New Catholic Answer Bible B-1, D-4, G-2, G-4, L-4, M-3, Q-2, U-2, U-3
Lumen Gentium - Dogmatic Constitution of the Church
<http://www.ewtn.com/library/councils/v2church.htm>

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Mt 4:18-22 (NT p. 20) Jesus chose disciples.

Mt 16: 13-20 (NT 41) Peter's Confession about Jesus. Note "ecclesia."

Greatest Commandment: Mt 22: 35-40 (NT p.54)
Vertical
Horizontal

Church/Christian community is to be the visible sign of Jesus in the world.

The Catholic Church also has seven liturgical or formal Sacraments. They are special events that happen in Christian community, as well as a personal encounter with God. They are a source of grace; an "official" encounter with God.

Luke 10:29-37 (NT 119) Who is my neighbor?

John 21:15-17 (NT 175) Feed my sheep.

John 20: 19-23 (NT p.174) Disciples in hiding, saw risen Jesus, and he breathed on them the Holy Spirit. "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." (v.21)

We encounter God through Jesus. We encounter Jesus through the Church, led by the Holy Spirit. We are the Church.

CCC (Catechism of the Catholic Church) 1070 "We, the Church, most fully symbolize Christ when we worship in community."

DISCUSS

1. What is your concept of the word “worship”?
2. Thinking of the Greatest Commandment (Love God; Love your neighbor as yourself), discuss some reasons why community is essential part of our faith response. What are some results of communal worship?
3. Why do I have to go to mass every week?
4. How do we get from “having” to go to mass to “wanting” to go to mass?
5. Respond to the comment “The Church is full of hypocrites.”

Acts 2: 42-47 (NT p.181)

Acts 6 (NT 185) Need for assistants, deacons.

Acts 10 (NT 191) Inclusion of Gentiles was a great challenge.

Travels of Paul

Nicene Creed (Adult Catechism p. 46)

- One - As the Trinity is One, the Church is to be One.
 - Holy - The Holy Spirit, source of the Church, is Holy.
 - Catholic - Universal; for all.
 - Apostolic - Faithful to the teaching of the Apostles.
- (Read about the four marks of the Church in your text p.126-134.)

1 Cor 1: 1-9 (NT 238)