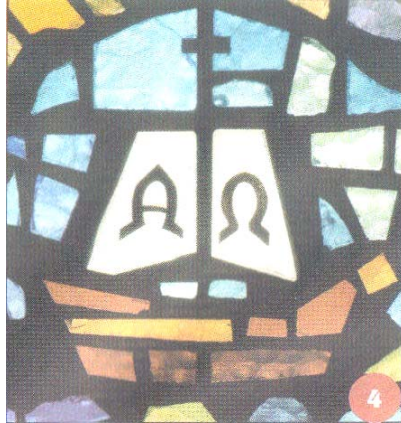


## Why Be Catholic

### Overview

From time to time, we all should recall our reasons to believe in God, and as Christians for acceptance of Jesus Christ as Lord.

A busy executive once spoke about his company, stating that it was one of the most successful of its kind. However, he pointed out, we are up to our neck in problems – religious ones! We can't seem to do a good job until our employees find out what their lives are all about.



Many people express a belief in God but do nothing to show it. They do not want to get involved in church activities or be tied down. While these may be just excuses, they are not important. The real question is whether the idea of “church” came from man or Jesus. If it is His idea, His plan and His will – then your goal should be to become an active member.

### The History of the Church

Knowing scriptures is helpful since we see that Jesus chose 12 men who He called apostles to help Him. Christ gave them special attention and teaching while promising them that He would not leave them alone. He gave them the foundation for the church and inspired by the Holy Spirit it has grown and flourished. Ordered by Jesus to spread the Good news these apostles traveled near and far.

Therefore, if you accept Jesus you must accept His church since are inseparable. The church is really the people of God and following Christ is not a do-it-yourself project. There are many

thousands of Christian sects all over the world - all that professes to follow Jesus – but only one Universal Catholic Church.

With full respect to all Christian groups, the Roman Catholic Church has some very special qualities. The True Presence in the Eucharist embodies the Body and Blood of Jesus – also as taught to us by Jesus Himself. Another important quality is that which we call “*Apostolic Succession*”. Jesus called Peter His “Rock” and that He would build His church on that Rock. After His resurrection, Jesus actually appointed Peter as Shepherd of the flock. To this day, successors to Peter who was also the first Bishop of Rome have continued to lead the church.

### One Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church

The history of the Catholic Church is also a remarkable institution. It has stood the test of time for 20 centuries and has spread the good news across the world. It has produced some of the greatest saints and outstanding Popes along with some of its disappointments and failures. It is the oldest of all Christian churches and all others have the Catholic Church as its beginning and roots somewhere in time.

So why should you be Catholic? It should not be because of your particular likes or dislikes or that you like the social activities. One should be Catholic because of your passion to be like Jesus and what He taught us almost 2000 years ago. To understand the claims of the Catholic Church - study scriptures and history.

### Scriptural study about the church

To further your scriptural study we suggest you read Mathew’s Gospel, chapters 16, 18 and 28. Continue with the Acts of the Apostles chapters 14 and 21. Read especially the Letter to the Ephesians, chapters 1, 2, 4 and 5.