

Part II. Ecclesiology

- I. The Church in God's Plan
- The mission of Christ is completed in the Church *(737)
- Meaning of the word "Church" (751-52)
- "what belongs to the Lord"
- "whole universal community of believers"
- "the people that God gathers in the whole world"
- Origin, foundation and mission of the Church
- The Church is a "plan born in the Father's heart." (759)
- The world was created for the sake of the Church (760)
- Jesus Christ instituted the Church to fulfill the Father's will (763)
- Jesus endowed the Church with a structure which will
remain until the end of time (765)
- The Holy Spirit sanctifies the Church so that the Church
can fulfill its mission—to proclaim and establish
the kingdom of Christ on earth. (768)
- The Church is both divine and human (771)
- Union of men and women with God in the "love that never ends" (773)
- Sign of unity among all men and women (775-76)
- The Church is the People of God (782-86)
- One becomes a member through faith in Christ and Baptism
- Jesus the Messiah is the Head
- Members enjoy the dignity and freedom of Sons of God
- The law of the Church is to love as Christ loved us.
- The mission of the Church is to be "salt of the earth and light of the world"
- The Church's destiny is to be perfected by Christ at the end of time
- The whole people of God participates in the three offices of Christ:
the priestly, the prophetic, and the kingly offices
- The Church is the Body of Christ
- The Church is communion with Jesus (787)
- The unity of the Mystical Body preserves the diversity
of members, stimulates charity among the
faithful, and triumphs over all divisions (791)
- Christ is the Head of this body
- The Church is the Bride of Christ (796)
- The Church is the Temple of the Holy Spirit (797-98)
- II. The Church is One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic
- The Church is One (813)
- Because of her source, the Holy Trinity
- Because of her founder, Jesus Christ
- Because of her soul, the Holy Spirit
- Invisible bond of unity: Charity (815)

Visible bonds of unity	(815)
One faith received from the apostles	
Common celebration of divine worship, especially the sacraments	
Apostolic succession through the Holy Orders	
Wounds to unity	(817-19)
Heresy: obstinate denial after Baptism of a truth which must be believed	(2089)
Apostasy: total repudiation of Christian faith	(2089)
Schism: refusal to submit to the pope or to receive communion with members of the Church subject to him.	(2089)
Separated Christians	(817-19)
One cannot charge with the sin of separation those born or raised in separated churches	
Baptized non-Catholics are rightly called Christians and are our brothers and sisters in the Lord	
Elements of sanctity and truth found outside the Church:	
The written Word of God	
The life of grace	
The theological virtues of faith, hope and charity	
The gifts of the Holy Spirit	
Ways Catholics may work for unity	(820)
Permanent renewal of the Church in fidelity to Christ	
On-going conversion of heart by the faithful	
Prayer in common	
Fraternal knowledge of each other's religions	
Ecumenical formation	
Dialogue among Christians	
Collaboration among Christians, e.g, efforts to defend human life	
Uphold Church teaching even as we strive for unity	
The Church is Holy	(823-29)
Jesus who is "alone holy" has taken the Church as His bride giving Himself up for here so as to sanctify her.	Eph. 25-26
All the Church's activities are directed to the glorification of God and sanctification of men and women	
The fullness of the means of salvation is deposited in the Church.	Eph 1:22-33 Lumen Gentium
The holiness of the Church is real though imperfect.	LG 4
All the faithful are called to perfection in holiness.	LG 11
Charity is the soul of holiness.	LG 42
The Church follows constantly the path of penance and renewal.	LG 8
Canonized saints are models of holiness and they pray for us to be holy.	LG 40
Mary is the Queen of all Saints and Model of Holiness	LG 4

The Church is Catholic	(830-856)
The word “catholic” means universal.	(830)
The Church is catholic because Christ is present in the Church.	(830)
The Church is catholic because “the Church has been sent out by Christ on a mission to the whole human race.”	(831)
The Catholic Church “bears in herself and administers the totality of the means of salvation.	(868)
The Church is joined in many ways to baptized Christians who do not profess the Catholic faith or recognize the authority of the pope, (particularly profound with Orthodox Churches).	(838)
The Church and non-Christians	Rom.9:4-5
The Church is linked to the Jewish people.	(839)
First to hear the Word of God	
To them “belong the sonship, the glory, covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, the promises and the patriarchs”	
Christ was born of the Jewish race.	
The Church is linked to the Muslims.	(841)
Acknowledge the Creator	
Profess the faith of Abraham	
Adore with Christians the one, merciful God	
The Church is Apostolic	(857-65)
The word “apostolic” means “founded on, and carrying on the mission of the apostles.”	
The apostles were the witnesses chosen and sent by Jesus.	Eph 2:20
The Church keeps and hands on the teaching of the apostles.	
The Church is taught, sanctified and guided by the apostles until Jesus’ return through their successors, the bishops, assisted by priests, in union with the pope.	(857)
The Church is indestructible.	Mt 16:13-20
The Church is upheld infallibly in the truth.	
III. The Church is made up of the hierarchy, laity and those who lead consecrated lives	
The hierarchy: the Episcopal college and the pope	(880-896)
The Pope, Vicar of Christ, the Bishop of Rome	(892)
Peter’s successor	
“Perpetual and visible source and foundation of the unity both of the bishops and of the faithful”	(882)
Head of the college of bishops	LG 22
Has “supreme, full, immediate and universal power in the care of souls”	(937)

Bishops	(888-96)
Successors of the apostles	
Visible source and foundation of unity in their own dioceses	LG 23
Assisted by priests and deacons, they exercise the following offices:	
The teaching office	(888-92)
The sanctifying office	(893)
The governing office	(894-96)
“The college or body of bishops has no authority unless united with the Roman Pontiff . . . As such, this college has ‘supreme and full authority over the universal Church; but this power cannot be exercised without the agreement of the Roman Pontiff.’”	(883)
The Lay Faithful	(897-913)
Meaning of the term “laity”	
All the faithful except those in Holy Orders or those who belong to a religious state approved by the Church; includes single and married	
Special vocation of the laity:	(897-900)
Engage in and direct temporal affairs according to God’s will	(898)
Promote Catholic doctrine in social, political, and economic life	(899)
Work so that all may accept the divine message of salvation	(900)
Share in Christ’s priestly office by offering everything to God	(901)
Serve as lectors and acolytes for those possessing required qualities	(903)
Share in Christ’s prophetic office by evangelizing	(904-07)
Share in Christ’s kingly office by remedying worldly institutions and conditions that induce people to sin	
The Consecrated Life	(914-33)
Meaning of the term “consecrated life”	
State in life constituted by profession of evangelical counsels, poverty, chastity, and obedience (not priests or deacons).	(914)
Types of consecrated life	
Eremitic life (hermits)	(920-21)
Consecrated virgins and widows	(922)
Religious life	(925-27)
Secular institutes	(928-29)
Societies of apostolic life	(930)

- IV. Communion of Saints
 The Church is a “communion of saints” in two respects:
 “in holy things,” above all, the Eucharist (960-961)
 “of holy persons, “ in Christ
 The communion of the Church of Heaven, Earth, and Purgatory (954-62)
 (three state of the Church)
- V. Mary, Mother of Christ, Mother of the Church
 Wholly united with her Son from the time of His conception (964)
 In her Assumption (966)
 By her complete adherence to the Father’s will (967)
 The Church’s devotion to the Blessed Virgin intrinsic to (971)
 Christian worship
 Special devotion to Mary is different from adoration
 which is given to God alone
 Liturgical feasts dedicated to Mary
 Marian prayer, particularly the Rosary, an epitome of
 the Gospel
 Mary, Icon of the Church (972)
 Mary is an image of what the Church will be like in
 Heaven and as such is a source of hope and
 comfort to the faithful on earth.

Resources for Teachers

Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (Lumen Gentium), Vatican II Documents.

On the Mystical Body of Christ (Mystici Corporis), Pope Pius XII, Pauline Books and Media, Boston.