

## Why the Catholic Church?

### Founding a Church

“

And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

- Matthew 16:18

”

TMIY

### On this Rock, I will build my Church

#### Unity

“That they may be one even as we are one.”

Hades  
Shall Not  
Prevail

TMIY

## Unity

“

That they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you have sent me...

- John 17:22-23

”

TMIY

## On this Rock, I will build my Church

### Unity

“That they may be one even as we are one.”

### Holiness

“Be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

Hades  
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Hades  
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### Internationality

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations.”

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## All Nations

“

And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

- Matthew 28:18-19

”

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### Foundation by Jesus

“On this rock I will build my church.”

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## Tracing the History

### **All denominations claim to represent Jesus' true teaching:**

- All Protestant churches can be traced to a historical founder in the past 500 years.
- Southern Baptists: largest in US, formed 1845 in Augusta GA by William Bullein Johnson and other preachers.
- Lutheran: trace their history back to Martin Luther (1483-1546) a Catholic priest from Germany who started a religious revolt.
- Methodist: trace themselves back to John Wesley, an Episcopal preacher (1703-1791) who started a reform movement known as “Methodism”.
- And we can go on and on...

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## On this Rock, I will build my Church

### Unity

"That they may be one even as we are one."

### Holiness

"Be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

One, Holy,  
Catholic,  
Apostolic

### Internationality

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations."

### Foundation by Jesus

"On this rock I will build my church."

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## Apostolic Succession

“

We are in a position to reckon up those who were by the apostles instituted bishops in the Churches, and [to demonstrate] the succession of these men to our own times... Since, however, it would be very tedious ... to reckon up the successions of all the Churches, we [point to] that tradition derived from the apostles, of the very great, the very ancient, and universally known Church founded and organized at Rome by the two most glorious apostles, Peter and Paul...

- St. Irenaeus of Lyons

”

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## Apostolic Succession

“

For it is a matter of necessity that every Church should agree with this Church, on account of its pre-eminent authority. The blessed apostles [Peter and Paul] ... committed into the hands of Linus the office of the bishop [of Rome]. To him succeeded Anacletus; and after him, in the third place from the apostles, Clement .... To this Clement there succeeded Evaristus. Alexander followed Evaristus; then, sixth from the apostles, Sixtus was appointed; after him, Telephorus, who was gloriously martyred...

- St. Irenaeus of Lyons

”

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## Session 12

- **What are some features that make the Catholic Church unique among organizations that call themselves churches?**
- **Should the Church you join be a matter of convenience: what's closest to you, has the most appealing worship services, the best childcare, etc.? Yes or no, and why? What are good criteria for determining the church to associate with? Where should we look to find those criteria?**