

# Why Be Catholic?

Host: Doug Lawrence

Home of Bob Stanley's "The Catholic Treasure Chest"

The fact that Jesus Christ took on flesh, lived a human existence, communicated and confirmed certain divine truths, died, subsequently rose again (and while he still walked the earth) founded the Catholic Church, provides Catholic Christianity with a unique status, as the ONLY constant, living, eye-witness to divine truth and the ONLY CHURCH that Jesus Christ EVER authorized, empowered and eternally guaranteed, for the purpose of our salvation.

**You should consider becoming Catholic** if you understand that the Holy Catholic Church is the very same Church that was born of the Holy Spirit, on the first Christian Pentecost, in Jerusalem; the same Church that St. Peter established in Rome, around the year 42 AD; the same Church that Saint Paul and the other Apostles established throughout the known world, around that same time and the same Church that has been known as Catholic (universal) since at least, 107 AD.

You understand that it was the Catholic Church that compiled, wrote, and certified ALL the authentic Scriptures, translating the Bible into the common language of the people, by the end of the 4th century.

You understand that the Holy Bible – the inerrant, infallible, written Word of God - will always remain a Catholic book; the New Testament having been written by Catholics, for Catholics, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and the Old Testament having been painstakingly curated, scrutinized and certified by the Catholic Church, to be nothing less than God's authentic, written truth.

You want to "know" Jesus Christ – in the flesh – body, blood, soul and divinity – LONG BEFORE you experience his Divine Judgment, on The Last Day and you want to understand, experience, live and appreciate ALL that God has revealed, for the purpose of our salvation and for his greater glory.

You prefer the clear and constant guidance of the authentic Church to the 50,000 or so, various, non-Catholic interpretations of scripture, and to the millions of self-declared, non-Catholic preachers who claim to know, yet proclaim widely differing messages that are often deficient in content and contrary to God's awesome truth.

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You want to have an ongoing, personal relationship with God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, along with the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the angels and saints - as an adopted child of God - faithfully living out "The Peace of Christ" - according to his grace and mercy - now, and for all eternity.

You want to fully and regularly participate in the very same sacrifice and obtain the very same blessings that flowed from Christ's one time, once for all, perfect and eternal sacrifice for the sins of the world, on the cross, at Calvary.

You appreciate the massive, on-going, 2000-year-old, traditional collection of the finest theological scholarship that the world has ever known - along with "a sure and certain" official Catechism that clearly defines the truths of the only authentic, Christian faith.

You find crackers and grape juice to be somewhat "less filling" than the real and substantial body, blood, soul, and divinity of the risen Jesus that we Catholics graciously receive, in the Holy Eucharist.

You appreciate the peace of mind that comes with KNOWING for certain that God has forgiven ALL your sins - right here and right now - without exception - through the awesome Sacrament of Reconciliation.

You like being part of the living, ongoing, Holy Spirit guided, Sacred and Apostolic Tradition that is the original Christian Church - the People of God - the Mystical Body of Christ.

You believe the Bible when it records Jesus giving sweeping, unprecedented, unrestricted and everlasting power and authority to St. Peter, to the Apostles, and to their duly ordained successors - but to no other persons, groups, governments and/or books.

You understand that it's no coincidence that the Holy Catholic Church has outlasted every other world government of every kind, and that the nations (often, grudgingly) still look to the Holy Catholic Church for "light" and "salt".

You realize that the discovery of the bones of St. Peter beneath the main altar of the basilica named for him, in the Vatican, during mid-20th century excavations, means that Jesus really wasn't kidding, when he said, "Thou art Peter, and upon this Rock I will build my Church" and that Saint Peter - The Rock - and his Holy Office - by the grace of God - is much, much more than "a little pebble".

You understand that corruption and sin has plagued the Holy Catholic Church since Judas; that evil will never stop attacking the Church, both from within and without, until the end of time; yet the Church itself will always remain one, holy, catholic and apostolic; totally without blemish; because the Church belongs to God and his grace is sufficient; and according to that grace, you have a deep, ABIDING faith in Jesus Christ, ALL that he did for us, and ALL that he promises, without exception or limitation.