

People of God: Four Models of Church

Links and Resources

Scripture

(Passages cited in the text are from *New Revised Standard Version Bible, Catholic Edition*, Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1993.)

Deuteronomy 7:6	You are a people holy to the Lord, your God.
Genesis 12:2	I will make of you a great nation.
Genesis 15:5	Your descendants shall be like the stars in the heavens.
Isaiah 53:11	The righteous one shall make many righteous.
Matthew 20:25-28	Whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant.
Matthew 28:16-20	Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations.
Mark 8:26-10:45	What it means to be a disciple in the eyes of Jesus.
John 13:15	I no longer call you servants, but friends.
Acts 2:42, 46-47; 4:32-35	Description of life in the early Christian communities.
Acts 4:20	From the beginning, the first disciples burned with the desire to proclaim Christ.
1 Peter 2:10	“Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people.”
1 John 1:3-4	“[We] declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.”

Conciliar Documents

Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (Lumen gentium)

http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_const_19641121_lumen-gentium_en.html

1: The Church is a sacrament, a sign and instrument, that is, of communion with God and unity of the entire human race.

2: The prefigurement, redemption, and fulfillment of the Church.

9: It has pleased God to make people holy not merely as individuals without any mutual bonds, but by making them into a single people that acknowledges Him in truth and serves Him in holiness.

35: It is the duty of all lay people to cooperate in spreading and building up the kingdom of God.

Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World (Gaudium et spes)

http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_cons_19651207_gaudium-et-spes_en.html

Decree on the Apostolate of Lay People (Apostolicam actuositatem)

http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_decree_19651118_apostolicam-actuositatem_en.html

6: The apostolate of each member of the Church is to announce to the world, by word and action, the message of Christ.

Decree on the Church's Missionary Activity (Ad gentes)

http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_decree_19651207_ad-gentes_en.html

15: The Spirit gathers all people into one people of God.

Papal Documents

On Evangelization in the Modern World (Evangelii nuntiandi) (1975), Paul VI

http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/paul_vi/apost_exhortations/documents/hf_p-vi_exh_19751208_evangelii-nuntiandi_en.html

On evangelization in general, and the particular needs of the modern world concerning evangelization.

14: "We wish to confirm once more that the task of evangelizing all people constitutes the essential mission of the Church."

22: "There is no true evangelization if the name, the teaching, the life, the promises, the kingdom, and the mystery of Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God, are not proclaimed."

Mission of the Redeemer (Redemptoris Missio) (1990), John Paul II

http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/encyclicals/documents/hf_jp-ii_enc_07121990_redemptoris-missio_en.html

Call for Catholic "new evangelization" worldwide as we come into the third millennium.

The Vocation and Mission of the Lay Faithful in the Church in the World (Christifidelis Laici) (1988), John Paul II

http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/apost_exhortations/documents/hf_jp-ii_exh_30121988_christifideles-laici_en.html

Presents an awareness of the baptismal call to ministry that makes the Church both sign and instrument of God's presence. We are the body of Christ, called to sanctify the world from within.

Catechism of the Catholic Church

To find the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* on the Web, click on:

http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/ccc_toc.htm

#748-#975 Article 9: "I Believe in the Holy Catholic Church"

<http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/p1s2c3a9.htm>
<http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/p123a9p1.htm>

- #748 “The Church has no other light than Christ’s; according to a favorite image of the Church Fathers, the Church is like the moon, all its light reflected from the sun.”
<http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/p1s2c3a9.htm>
- # 753 The “people of God” is a profound theme in the Old Testament.
<http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/p123a9p1.htm>
- #770 “It is only ‘with the eyes of faith’ that one can see her [the Church] in her visible reality and at the same time in her spiritual reality as bearer of divine life.”
<http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/p123a9p1.htm>
- #775 A familiar statement from Vatican Council II: “The Church, in Christ, is like a sacrament—a sign and instrument, that is, of communion with God and of unity among all men.”
<http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/p123a9p1.htm>
- #778 “The Church is both the means and the goal of God’s plan.”
<http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/p123a9p1.htm>
- #779 “[The Church] is one, yet formed of two components, human and divine. That is her mystery, which only faith can accept.”
<http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/p123a9p1.htm>
- #781 “[God] has...willed to make men holy and save them, not as individuals without any bond or link between them, but rather to make them into a people who might acknowledge him and serve him in holiness.”
<http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/p123a9p2.htm>
- #786 The “people of God” share in the *royal* office of Christ.”
<http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/p123a9p2.htm>
- #789 The Church experiences “the unity of all her members with each other as a result of their union with Christ.”
<http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/p123a9p2.htm>
- # 904-5 It is taken for granted that religious and clergy are obligated to herald the Good News of Christ. What is expected of the laity?
<http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/p123a9p4.htm>

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Documents

Go and Make Disciples: A National Plan and Strategy for Catholic Evangelization in the United States (November 1992). *Text, Study Guide and Implementation Process* by Susan W. Blum, Ed. D. Washington, DC: National Council for Catholic Evangelization, 1994. The National Conference of U.S. Catholic Bishops proposes three goals for evangelization, recommends strategies, and offers resources for proclaiming the story of salvation. Special study guide offers faith-sharing questions for each section and a step-by-step process for planning parish evangelization in small groups. To order: <http://www.catholic evangelization.org/products>

Books

Bausch, William J. *Pilgrim Church: A Popular History of Catholic Christianity*. Mystic, CT: Twenty-Third Publications, 1989. A delightful discovery for people who want to know how the Church came to

be and grew through the centuries. Helps us understand where we are as we face a new millennium.

- Brown, Raymond. *The Churches the Apostles Left Behind*. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 1984. Looks at the various communities of the Christian Testament and describes their differences. Examines the fact that there has been not just one ecclesiology in Christianity, but many.
- Donovan, Daniel. *Distinctively Catholic: An Exploration of the Catholic Identity*. New York/Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 1997. This highly readable introduction to Catholicism focuses on characteristic features of the Catholic experience of Christianity, on things that make being Catholic distinctive.
- Dulles, Avery. *A Church to Believe In: Discipleship and the Dynamics of Freedom*. New York: The Crossroad Publishing Co., 1982. Out of print.
- Dulles, Avery. *Models of the Church*. Expanded edition. New York, NY: Image Books, a division of Doubleday, 1987. One of America's leading theologians defines the basic functions of the Church, assesses its mission, and explores its many different roles in the lives of believers.
- Dulles, Avery and Patrick Grandfield. *The Theology of the Church: A Bibliography*. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 1999. A well-structured and extensive bibliography of some of the best articles and books in ecclesiology. Areas include biblical, patristic, dogmatic, Councils, evangelization and mission, laity in the Church, and more.
- Forte, Bruno. *The Church: Icon of the Trinity*. Boston, MA: Daughters of St. Paul, 1991. Presents some of the most important aspects of what the Church is: identity in Christ, mystery, flowing from the Trinity, and the already/not yet kingdom. Key passages from Vatican Council II are used to support main points.
- Fullenbach, John, S.V.D. *Church: Community for the Kingdom*. Manila: Logos Publications, 2000. This book is about the being, purpose, and goal of the Church today taken from perspectives of Scripture, Vatican Council II, and models of Church.
- Fuellenbach, John. *The Kingdom of God: The Message of Jesus Today*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 1995. A comprehensive review of the crucial symbol of the kingdom of God—a careful analysis and creative interpretation of its meaning for the Church and Christians in our age.
- Gilles, Anthony E. *People of God: The History of Catholic Christianity*. Cincinnati, OH: St. Anthony Messenger Press, 2000. A concise, clear history of the Church. Heavily researched, it includes many truths that all Catholics should know.
- Komonchak, Joseph A., Mary Collins, and Dermot A. Lane, Eds. *The New Dictionary of Theology*. Wilmington, DE: Michael Glazier, 1989. Review of the biblical, traditional, liturgical, and magisterial foundations of the topics included, in order to summarize the contribution of Vatican Council II and to indicate present theological understanding.
- McBride, Alfred. *The Story of the Church: Peak Moments from Pentecost to the Year 2000*. Revised edition. Cincinnati, OH: St. Anthony Messenger Press, 1996. Presents thirty “peak moments” in this 2,000-year story, giving us Church history from a human perspective through minidramas, interviews, diaries, and dialogues.
- Preston, Geoffrey. *Faces of the Church: Meditations on a Mystery and Its Images*. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1997. Explores the chief biblical images for the Church, the seven sacraments as manifestations of the Church, and a variety of “privileged moments” for glimpsing what the Church most deeply is—“the point where the relationship of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit intersect in time.”
- Ratzinger, Joseph Cardinal. *Called to Communion: Understanding the Church*. San Francisco, CA: Ignatius Press, 1996. Examines topics of origin and essence of the Church, primacy of Peter and

unity of Church, value of suffering in union with Christ crucified, role of the bishop and essence of priesthood, and indispensable service of the laity in the apostolate.

Schillebeeckx, Edward. *Church: The Human Story of God*. New York, NY: The Crossroad Publishing Co., 1990. Part three of a trilogy, this book examines the relationship between God and human beings, mediated by Jesus Christ, and the meaning of God for Christians and all people of the world.

Schmaus, Michael. *The Church as Sacrament*. London, England: Sheed & Ward, 1975.

Stravinskias, Rev. Peter M. J., ed. *Our Sunday Visitor's Catholic Encyclopedia*. Huntingdon, IN: Our Sunday Visitor Publishing Division, 1991. Comprehensive one-volume encyclopedia of the Catholic religion characterized by a clear and traditional presentation of theological topics of a liturgical, historical, biblical, or moral nature.

Newsletters and Articles

Coffey, Kathy. "Top Ten Reasons to Be Catholic," *St. Anthony Messenger*, Cincinnati: St. Anthony Messenger Press, October 1997.
<http://www.americancatholic.org/Messenger/Oct1997/feature2.asp>
Many of us have been raised in the Church, but why do we remain Catholic? Kathy Coffey shares her favorite reasons and invites you to consider your own.

Hoover, Brett C., C.S.P. "Being Catholic: What Does It Mean?" *Youth Update*, Cincinnati, OH: St. Anthony Messenger Press, April 1999. <http://www.americancatholic.org/Newsletters/YU/ay0499.asp>
This article begins to explore what it means to be Catholic, from a teenage perspective.

Weakland, Rembert G., O.S.B. "Being Truly Catholic Today," *Catholic Update*, Cincinnati, OH: St. Anthony Messenger Press, June 1999.
<http://www.americancatholic.org/Newsletters/CU/ac0699.asp>
Through the image of the Church as people of God dancing on pilgrimage, Archbishop Weakland explores a definition of the Church as a place where "we dance with everybody." Adapted from his 1998 keynote address to the Archdiocese of Los Angeles Religious Education Congress.

RENEW International Resources

Kleissler, Thomas A., Margo A. LeBert, and Mary C. McGuinness. *Small Christian Communities: A Vision of Hope for the 21st Century, revised and updated*. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 1997.
"A rich source of practical information about how to make the vision of the parish as 'a community of many small communities' come alive in today's parish." (To order:
<http://www.renewintl.org/Resources/Pages/voh.html>)

Pinyan, Charles. *At Home in the Catholic Church*. Helps both new and longtime Catholics appreciate the many riches of the Catholic faith, celebrate what it means to be Catholic, and grow in awareness of various dimensions of the faith (six sessions). (To order:
<http://www.renewintl.org/Resources/Pages/athomeimp.html>)

Parish Core Communities: Renewing the Face of the Earth (set of four videotapes). An aid for members of the Parish Core Community to chart their course for the future, this series captures the essence, structure, and spirit of RENEW 2000.
<http://www.renewintl.org/Resources/Pages/leadership.html>

Web Site Links

<http://www.catholic-pages.com/dir/documents.asp>

A user-friendly collection of links to the full texts of official Catholic documents

<http://www.daughtersofstpaul.com/growinginfaith/basicqas/index.html>

Collection of frequently asked questions about being Catholic

www.vatican.va

Official site of the Vatican, which contains media releases, news of the pontiff's activities, and research documents. (See particularly: *Catechism of the Catholic Church*:

http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/ccc_toc.htm; *Documents of Vatican Council II*:

http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/index.htm; *Holy Father (writings)*:

http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/index.htm.