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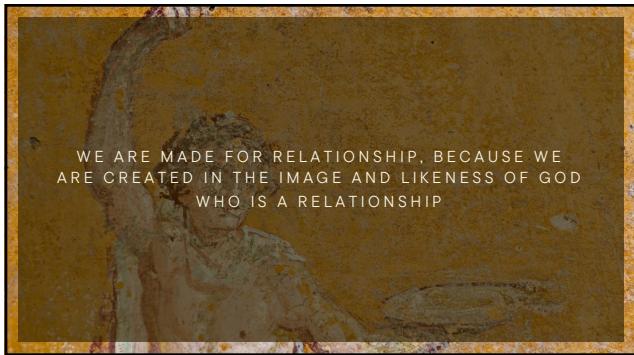
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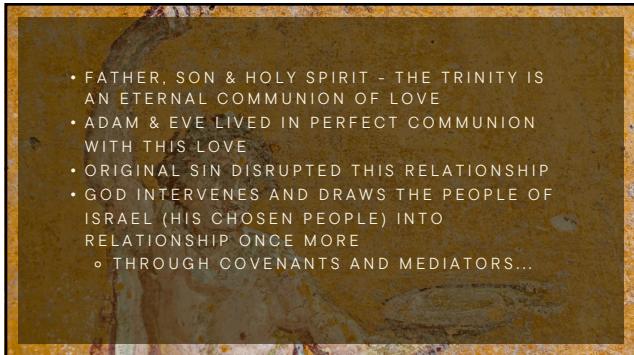
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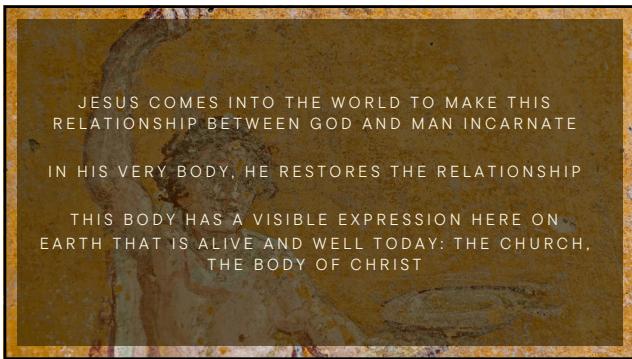
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JESUS COMES INTO THE WORLD TO MAKE THIS  
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GOD AND MAN INCARNATE  
IN HIS VERY BODY, HE RESTORES THE RELATIONSHIP  
THIS BODY HAS A VISIBLE EXPRESSION HERE ON  
EARTH THAT IS ALIVE AND WELL TODAY: THE CHURCH,  
THE BODY OF CHRIST

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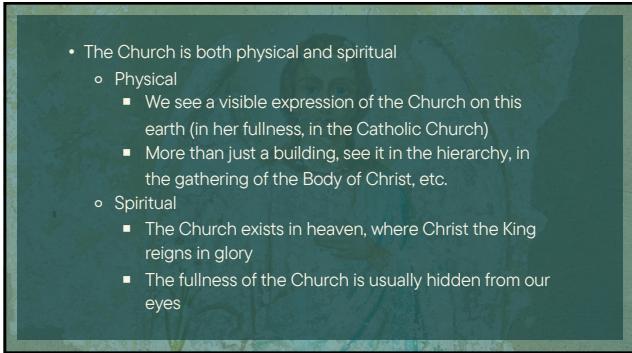
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4



- The Church is both physical and spiritual
  - Physical
    - We see a visible expression of the Church on this earth (in her fullness, in the Catholic Church)
    - More than just a building, see it in the hierarchy, in the gathering of the Body of Christ, etc.
  - Spiritual
    - The Church exists in heaven, where Christ the King reigns in glory
    - The fullness of the Church is usually hidden from our eyes

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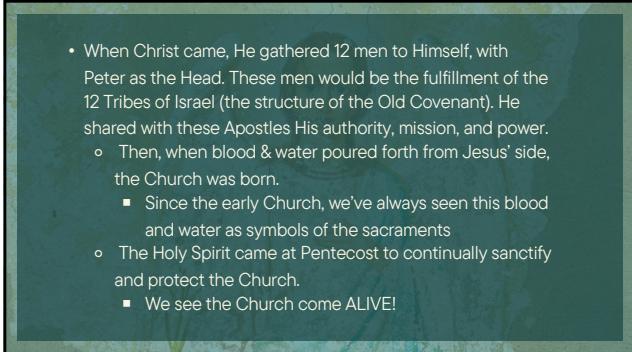
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- When Christ came, He gathered 12 men to Himself, with Peter as the Head. These men would be the fulfillment of the 12 Tribes of Israel (the structure of the Old Covenant). He shared with these Apostles His authority, mission, and power.
  - Then, when blood & water poured forth from Jesus' side, the Church was born.
    - Since the early Church, we've always seen this blood and water as symbols of the sacraments
  - The Holy Spirit came at Pentecost to continually sanctify and protect the Church.
    - We see the Church come ALIVE!

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- The Three “States” of the Church:
  - 1) Church Triumphant: Members of the Church who now reign with God in Heaven.
    - They are still members of the Church and thus we are united to them still...That's why we can ask them to pray for us.
    - Hebrews 12 - the “great cloud of witness”
    - Revelation 7:9 - “a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation, race, people, and tongue.”
  - 2) Church Suffering: those in need of further purification before entering Heaven.
    - Since they are still members of the Church, we can pray for them.
    - 1Cor 3:15
  - 3) Church Militant: those on earth fighting the good fight
    - US!
    - 1Cor 9:24 - “Run so as to win!”

7

“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

ROMANS 12:2

8

- The Church is a Body...
  - "As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit" (1 Cor 12:12-13).
- We are all different "parts" of the body, but united in Christ.
  - Christ is "the head of the Body, the Church" (Col. 1:18).
- "About Jesus Christ and the Church, I simply know they're just one thing, and we shouldn't complicate the matter." – St. Joan of Arc

9

- The Church is a Bride...
  - Christ is the bridegroom (husband) who loves the Church as His Bride.
    - "Christ loved the Church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her" (Eph. 5:25).
    - Mark 2:18-20
    - John 3:29
  - Christ rescues His bride (Baptism), feeds her (the Eucharist), cleanses her (Confession), makes her alive (Confirmation), gives her authority (Priesthood), heals her (Anointing of the Sick), and teaches her how to love (Marriage).
  - Because of this, we refer to the Church as "She" and not "It."

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- **Four Marks of the Church:** essential characteristics of the Church...
  - 1) **One:** the Church is united as one, though composed of many, since she is the one Body of Christ.
    - -Visible expressions of this unity:
      - a) Catholics believe the same faith and doctrines (handed on by the Apostles)
      - b) Worship of God is essentially the same everywhere throughout the world in Catholic churches.
      - c) All priests and bishops follow a "line of succession" dating back to the Apostles.
    - -The Church's unity has been wounded by schisms and breaks...Jesus desires us to work towards restoring that unity!
  - 2) **Holy:** being united with Christ, the Church is sanctified by Him, and through Him sanctifies all.
    - -Though she is full of sinners, the Church is holy because she is Christ's.
    - -The members of the Church are sinful and imperfect, but the Church herself is not.

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- **Four Marks of the Church:** essential characteristics of the Church...
  - 3) **Catholic:** the Church is "universal," complete, and meant for all.
    - -The Church has the "fullness of the faith" and all that is necessary for the world to be saved.
    - -The Church is meant for all people at all times, regardless of situations (race, economics, history).
  - 4) **Apostolic:** The Church is founded and built upon the Apostles.
    - -This is crucial because Jesus gave His very authority to the Apostles, and they passed it along.
    - -Apostolic Succession: the mission & authority of Jesus, as handed on to the Apostles, has been handed on through the centuries in the Catholic Church.
    - -The mission of Jesus endures: "Go and baptize all nations..."
    - -The authority of Jesus endures: "Jesus breathed on them & said: receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."
    - -The promise of Jesus endures: "I will be with you always..."

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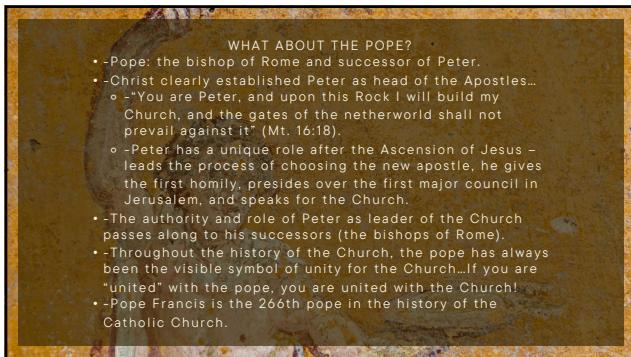
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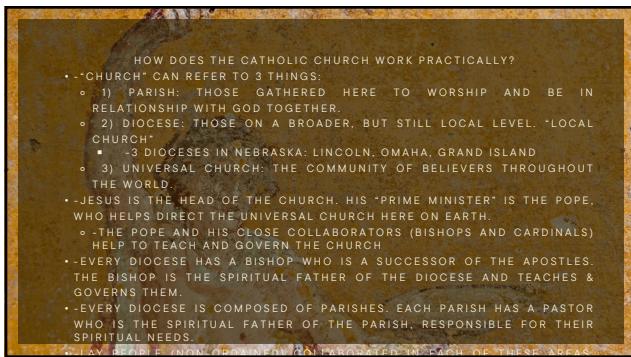
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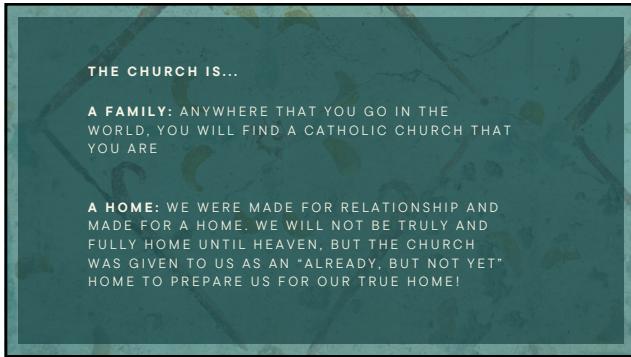
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