

**PARISH FAMILY ABLAZE (3-19-23): BALTIMORE CATECHISM NO. 2  
PART 1, LESSON 12—THE MARKS AND ATTRIBUTES OF THE CHURCH**

I. Prayers

- A. “Signum Crucis”: “In nomine Patris et Filii et Spiritus Sancti. Amen.”
- B. “Prayer to the Holy Spirit” (Inside Front Cover)
- C. Saint and Virtue:
  - 1. Saint Joseph
  - 2. Stewardship

II. The Marks and Attributes of the Church

- A. The One True Church Established by Christ = Catholic Church
- B. Chief Marks of the True Church Established by Christ:
  - 1. ONE—The Members:
    - a. Profess the same FAITH
    - b. Have the same SACRIFICE and SACRAMENTS
    - c. Are united under one and the same VISIBLE HEAD, the Pope
  - 2. HOLY
    - a. FOUNDER—Jesus Christ
    - b. TEACHINGS—Holy Doctrines
    - c. MEANS OF GRACE
    - d. Those living in a STATE OF GRACE and all SAINTS throughout the ages
  - 3. CATHOLIC (Universal)—ALL NATIONS and ALL RACES
    - a. Spans the globe and is destined to last for all time
    - b. Never fails to carry out the Divine Commission spreading the Faith (teaching, sanctifying, ruling)
  - 4. Apostolic
    - a. FOUNDED by Christ on the APOSTLES
    - b. Governed by the successors of the Apostles
- C. Chief Attributes of the Catholic Church:
  - 1. AUTHORITY (power to command others):
    - a. Pope/Bishops = Lawful successors of the Apostles
    - b. Successors have power from Christ to teach, sanctify, and govern the faithful in spiritual matters

2. INFALLIBILITY—Special assistance of the Holy Spirit to the Catholic Church to protect her from error in teaching and belief regarding doctrines of Faith or morals:
    - a. Papal—Extraordinary—Ex Cathedra pronouncements: The Pope intends to teach by virtue of his supreme authority on a matter of faith and morals to the whole Church
    - b. Ordinary and universal episcopal magisterium
    - c. Sensus Fidei
  3. INDEFECTIBILITY: The Church will last until the end of time
- D. “Outside the Church there is no salvation”:
1. Obligation to belong to the Church to be saved
    - a. Based on Christ, Who made her the necessary means of salvation and commanded the obligation to enter her through Baptism
    - b. A person must be connected to Mother Church in some way: by ordinary means (Baptism), by blood (martyrdom), by desire—  
 “Persons who are not members of the Catholic Church not know that the Catholic Church is the true Church, but they love God and try to do His will, for in this way they are connected with the Church by desire.”
  2. Church = Mystical Body of Christ—Supernatural bonds of grace unite members:
    - a. With one another
    - b. With Christ, the Head
  3. “The Church is Christ” = the Whole Christ, Head and members in a state of grace
  4. “The Church is Mary” (Mother of the Church):
    - a. The New Eve
    - b. Christians are her spiritual children in Christ her Son
- E. Full membership—The Baptized who profess the Faith and who have neither separated themselves from the Mystical Body nor been excluded from it by a lawful authority:
1. Heresy—one openly and deliberately rejects or doubts some doctrine proposed by the Catholic Church as a truth of divine-Catholic Faith, though still professing himself a Christian.
  2. Apostasy—a person openly rejects the entire Christian Faith

3. Schism—a person openly refuses obedience to the lawful authorities of the Church, particularly the Pope
4. Excommunication

III. Question for Father Jack

IV. Mission/Prayer and Blessing