

01. Church



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Jesus is THE **Sacrament**,
THE **Mystery**
THE **Symbol** of God

‘The **Word** became flesh
and lived among us,
and we have seen his glory,
the glory as of a father’s only son,
full of grace and truth ...

From his fullness
we have all received,
grace upon grace’ (John 1:14,16).

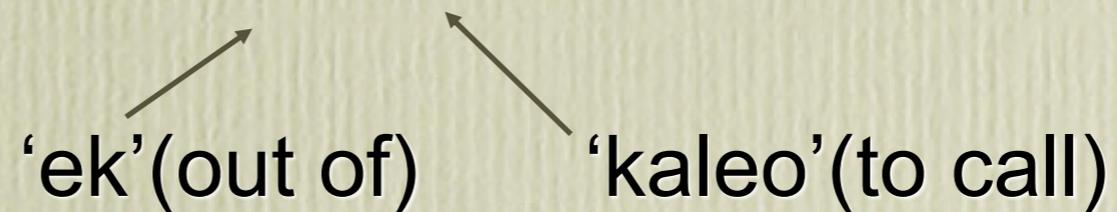
‘He whom God has sent speaks
the words of God, for he gives the
Spirit without measure.’ (John 3:34)



Lifted up from the earth,
I will draw everyone
to myself (John 12:32).

- The word 'church' like the German 'kirche', derives from the Greek 'kyriake' (belonging to the Lord). The Church is the community of disciples of the 'Lord', the Risen Christ.

The Greek word for Church is 'ekklesia'



Through his Son, Jesus, God is 'calling' everyone 'out of' darkness into light, drawing everyone to Christ and so into the church:

Apocalypse 1:12-16

Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me,
and on turning I saw seven golden lamp stands,
and in the midst of the lamp stands I saw one like the
Son of Man, clothed with a long robe
and with a golden sash across his chest;
his head and his hair were white as white wool, white as snow;
his eyes were like a flame of fire,
his feet were like brass, refined as in a furnace,
and his voice was like the sound of many waters
In his right hand he held seven stars, and
from his mouth came a sharp, two-edged sword
and his face was like the sun shining with full splendour.

{2Corinthians 4:6 - 'glory of God on the face of Christ'}

Catechism n. 776

‘As sacrament, the Church is Christ’s instrument.

The church is taken up by him also as his instrument for the salvation of all, the universal sacrament of salvation, by which Christ is manifesting and bringing about the mystery of God’s love for all people.

The Church is the visible plan of God’s love for humanity, because God desires that the whole human race

may become one **People of God,**

form one **Body of Christ,**

and be built into one **Temple of the Holy Spirit.’**

‘What a delight your dwelling place is, YHWH of hosts!’(Psalm 84:1)

We see the Church as the new Temple.

‘You are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God’(Ephesians 2:21-22).

‘You have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the first born who are enrolled in heaven.’

(Hebrews 12:22-23).

- The sacrament of this Spirit, the place where Jesus' Spirit is powerfully effective is the community of the Church, an extension in the world of Jesus' body, carrying out the will of God and bringing about on earth the reign of God's love (see Colossians 1:19 and 2:9).

‘The Risen Christ is now at work in human hearts through the power of his Spirit, not only arousing in them a desire for the world to come, but also animating, purifying and reinforcing the noble aspirations which drive the human family to make its life one that is more human and to direct the whole earth to this end.’

(Vatican II, G&S, §38).

- Jesus likened himself to a bridegroom (see Luke 5:34-35).
- John the Baptist uses the same image when he declares that he is happy to see his disciples going to Jesus, for ‘He who has the bride is the bridegroom’. Jesus is the bridegroom, John is the bridegroom’s friend (John 3:29-30).
- This is picked up in the Book of Revelation:
 - ‘Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready (19:7).
 - ‘I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband’(21:2).

n. 769 ‘The Church ... will receive its perfection only in the glory of heaven.’

n. 771 ‘The Church is essentially both human and divine, visible but endowed with invisible realities, zealous in action and dedicated to contemplation, present in the world but as a pilgrim, so constituted that in her the human is directed toward and subordinated to the divine, the visible to the invisible, action to contemplation, and this present world to that city yet to come, the object of our quest.’

(Vatican II, Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, 1963, n.2)

The Church is holy

- God alone is holy (see 1.8 Transcendence)
- The Church is holy because God has chosen the Church as his Temple: ‘God’s temple is holy, and you are that temple’(1Corinthians 3:17).
- There are sinners in the Church because ‘the Church clasps sinner to her bosom.’ (Luke 15:1-2). God does the pruning and purifying. **n. 827**

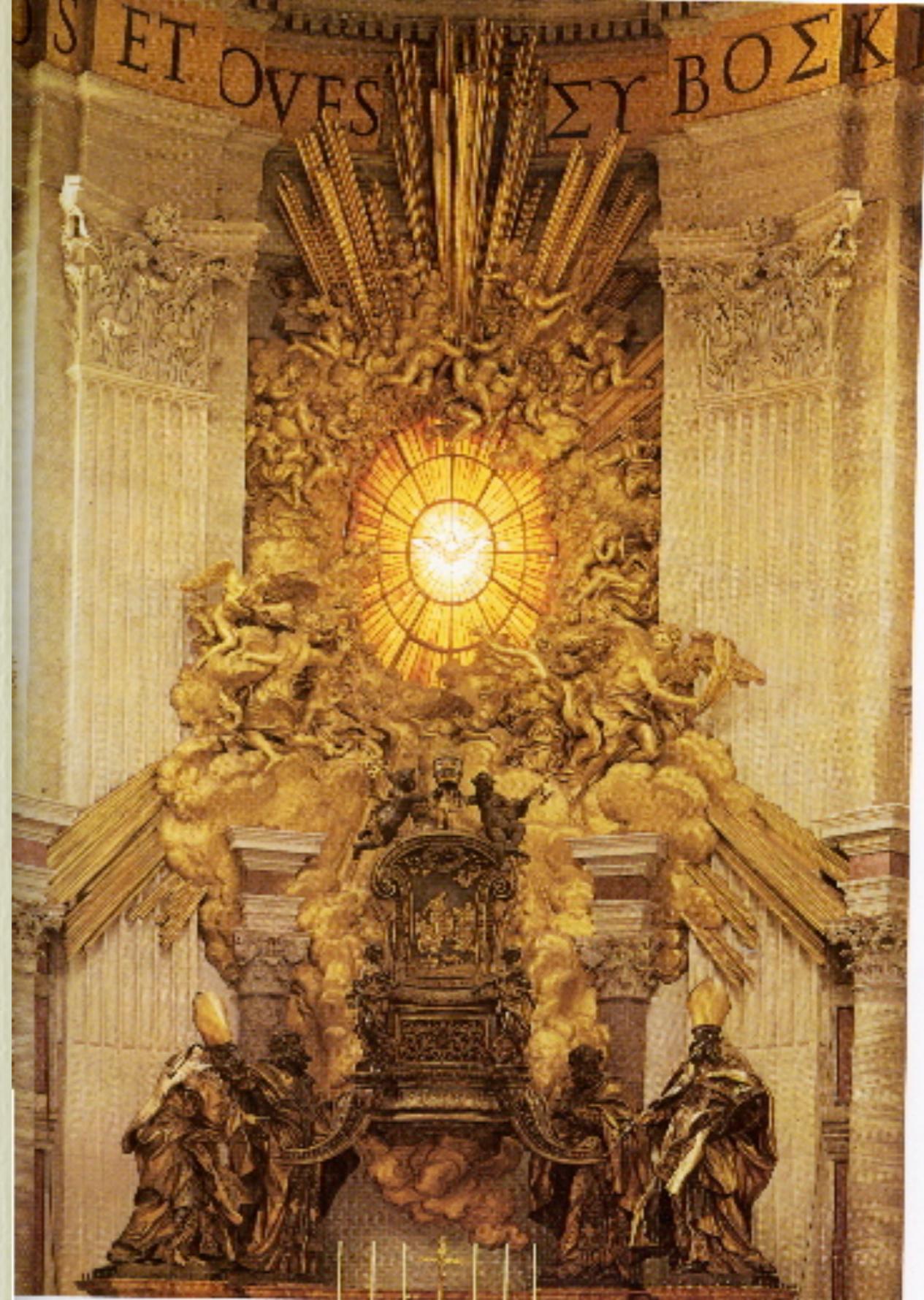
- ‘The holiness of the Church is constantly shown forth in the fruits of grace which the Spirit produces in the faithful. And so it must be. It is expressed in many ways by those who, each in his or her own state of life, tend to the perfection of love’(Vatican II, LG 39).
- The holiness of the Church is the holiness of love. It is the Spirit of communion between Jesus and God that is the soul and the heart of the Church. The holiness of the Church has its source in this Spirit. ‘I live, no longer I, for it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I live now is by the faith of the Son of God, loving me and giving himself for me’(Galatians 2:20).

- Office of Teaching
(‘Magisterium’)

n. 890

‘The pastoral duty of the Magisterium is aimed at seeing to it that the People of God abides in the truth that liberates.’

Wooden chair from 9th century said to have been used by St Peter.



Athanasius

John Chrysostom

Ambrose

Augustine



All You Need To Know

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I was here right with you never did I leave you.
I was your strength, your peace of mind,
all you hoped that you could be.
And Oh perhaps it's hard for you to grasp or understand
All you need to know for now is I was always there.



I was there right with you never did I leave you.

You trusted me to be for you

the song of courage you were needing.

And though the mystery is hard for you to grasp or understand

All you need to know for now is I was always there.



I will be with you for always, you will have nothing to fear.

I will love you protect you and keep you.

I was there right with you never did I leave you.

You have my word I promise you that you will never be alone.

And though perhaps it's hard for you to grasp or understand

All you need to know for now is I was always there.



All you ever need to know is
I am always there.

