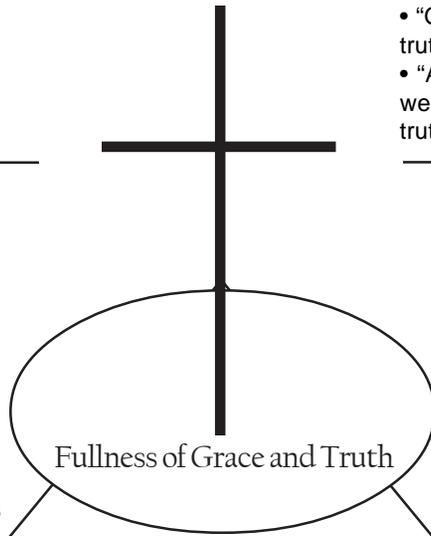


- "Outside the Church no body will be saved" - Origen
- "The universal Church of the faithful is one, outside of which no one is saved." - 4th Lateran Council 1215
- "The council relies on sacred Scripture and Tradition in teaching that this pilgrim Church is necessary for Salvation" - Vatican II

- "God wills everyone to be saved and to come to knowledge of the truth." 1 Timothy 2:4
- "And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of Grace and truth." John 1:14

In what way is the Church holy? Compendium 165

The Church is holy insofar as the Most Holy God is her author. Christ has given himself for her to sanctify her and make her a source of sanctification. The Holy Spirit gives her life with charity. **In the Church one finds the fullness of the means of salvation. Holiness is the vocation of each of her members and the purpose of all her activities.** The Church counts among her members the Virgin Mary and numerous Saints who are her models and intercessors. **The holiness of the Church is the fountain of sanctification for her children who here on earth recognize themselves as sinners ever in need of conversion and purification.**



Why evangelize?

Through her (the Church) work, whatever good is in the minds and hearts of men, whatever good lies latent in the religious practices and cultures of diverse peoples, is not only saved from destruction but is also cleansed, raised up and perfected unto the glory of God

Salvation or Holiness?

- All means of salvation
- Bound to Church "Body of Christ" by profession of faith, sacraments, ecclesiastical government, and communion.

They are fully incorporated in the society of the Church who, possessing the Spirit of Christ accept her entire system and all the means of salvation given to her, and are united with her as part of her visible bodily structure and through her with Christ, who rules her through the Supreme Pontiff and the bishops. The bonds which bind men to the Church in a visible way are profession of faith, the sacraments, and ecclesiastical government and communion. He is not saved, however, who, though part of the body of the Church, does not persevere in charity. He remains indeed in the bosom of the Church, but, as it were, only in a "bodily" manner and not "in his heart."(12\*) All the Church's children should remember that their exalted status is to be attributed not to their own merits but to the special grace of Christ. If they fail moreover to respond to that grace in thought, word and deed, not only shall they not be saved but they will be the more severely judged.

• Those also can attain to salvation who through no fault of their own do not know the Gospel of Christ or His Church, yet **sincerely seek God** and moved by grace strive by their deeds to do His will as it is known to them through the **dictates of conscience.**

• Nor is God far distant from those who in **shadows and images seek the unknown God**, for it is He who gives to all men life and breath and all things,(127) and as Saviour wills that all men be saved.

Monotheist  
Jewish  
Muslim

• In the first place we must recall the people to whom **the testament and the promises were given** and from whom Christ was born according to the flesh.

• But the plan of salvation also includes those who **acknowledge the Creator. In the first place amongst these there are the Mohamedans, who, professing to hold the faith of Abraham, along with us adore the one and merciful God**, who on the last day will judge mankind.

Eastern Orthodox  
Protestant

What keeps you from salvation?

1. Whosoever, therefore, knowing that the Catholic Church was made necessary by Christ, would refuse to enter or to remain in it, could not be saved.
2. He is not saved, however, who, though part of the body of the Church, does not persevere in charity. He remains indeed in the bosom of the Church, but, as it were, only in a "bodily" manner and not "in his heart."
3. Those also can attain to salvation who through no fault of their own do not know the Gospel of Christ or His Church, yet **sincerely seek God** and moved by grace strive by their deeds to do His will as it is known to them through the **dictates of conscience.**

• The Church recognizes that in many ways she is linked with those who, being baptized, are honored with the name of Christian, though they do not profess the faith in its entirety or do not preserve unity of communion with the successor of Peter. For there are many who honor Sacred Scripture, taking it as a norm of belief and a pattern of life, and who show a sincere zeal. They lovingly believe in God the Father Almighty and in Christ, the Son of God and Saviour. They are consecrated by baptism, in which they are united with Christ.

• Nor does Divine Providence deny the helps necessary for salvation to those who, without blame on their part, have not yet arrived at an explicit knowledge of God and with His grace strive to live a good life. Whatever good or truth is found amongst them is looked upon by the Church as a preparation for the Gospel. She knows that it is given by Him who enlightens all men so that they may finally have life.

pagan  
agnostic  
polytheist  
pantheist

Atheist  
Men of Good Will