

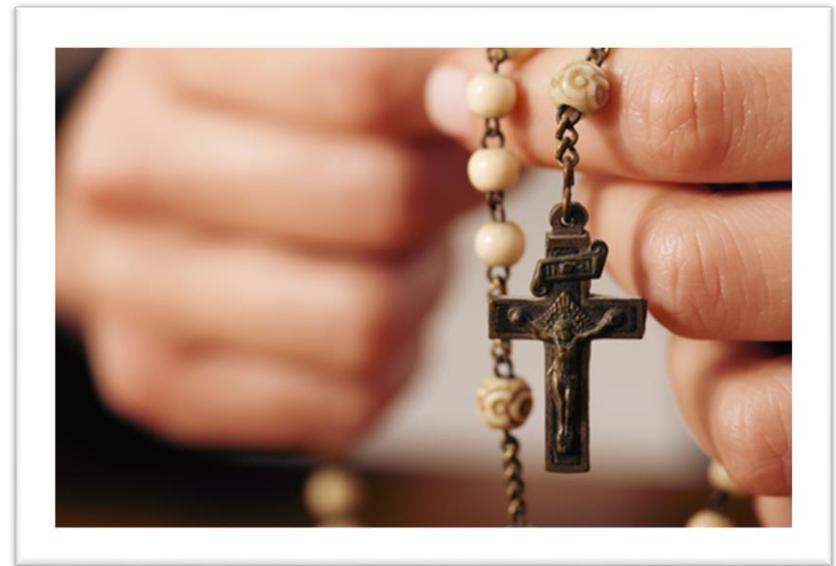
# Being Catholic: The “CliffsNotes” View

*The Catholic Faith Handbook for Youth,  
Third Edition*

## Chapter 1

## What Does It Mean to Be Catholic?

- For some, being Catholic means a culture or way of being in the world.
- People associate Advent wreaths, crucifixes, and the rosary with Catholic life.
- It is a way of experiencing God and following Jesus Christ.



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**What does it mean to you to be Catholic?**

# Catholic Images in the Popular Media

- Reports that feature the negative actions of individual Catholics
- News coverage that often shows the Church as out of touch
- Other stereotypes and misinformation



## Did You Know?

- There are over 1.3 billion Catholics in the world, about 16 percent of the world's population.
- There are more Catholics than there are people in any other Christian denomination.
- Catholics and Catholic churches can be found almost anywhere in the world.
- There is great diversity within the Catholic Church, but all Catholics share some “common threads.”



# Catholics By Region

Catholic Church in the Americas				
Region	Total population	Catholic	% Catholic	% of global Catholic pop.
<a href="#">Caribbean</a>	24,364,622	19,062,198	78.23%	1.77%
<a href="#">Central America</a>	42,883,849	32,317,384	75.36%	3.00%
<a href="#">North America</a>	448,587,847	173,212,640	38.61%	16.11%
<a href="#">South America</a>	371,363,897	299,570,011	80.66%	27.87%
Total	887,200,215	524,162,233	59.08%	48.75%

# Catholics By Region

Catholic Church in Europe				
Region	Total population	Catholic	% Catholic	% of global Catholic pop.
<a href="#">Southeast Europe</a>	65,903,464	6,562,775	9.95%	0.61%
<a href="#">Central Europe</a>	74,591,476	56,787,176	74.8%	5.19%
<a href="#">Eastern Europe</a>	228,118,665	9,702,334	4.25%	0.90%
<a href="#">Western Europe</a>	381,458,905	211,466,942	55.43%	19.67%
Total	730,072,510	285,916,457	37.85%	26.37%

# Catholics By Region

Catholic Church in Asia				
Region	Total population	Catholic	% Catholic	% of global Catholic pop.
<a href="#">Central Asia</a>	92,019,166	199,086	1.23%	0.01%
<a href="#">East Asia</a>	1,528,384,440	13,853,142	0.90%	1.28%
<a href="#">South Asia</a>	1,437,326,682	20,107,050	1.39%	1.87%
<a href="#">Southeast Asia</a>	571,337,070	86,701,421	15.17%	8.06%
Total	3,629,067,358	120,860,699	3.33%	11.24%



# Catholics By Region

Catholic Church in Africa				
Region	Total population	Catholic	% Catholic	% of global Catholic pop.
<a href="#">Central Africa</a>	83,121,055	37,353,218	44.93%	3.47%
<a href="#">East Africa</a>	193,741,900	34,872,130	17.99%	3.24%
<a href="#">North Africa</a>	202,151,323	2,369,490	1.17%	0.22%
<a href="#">Southern Africa</a>	137,092,019	24,463,640	17.84%	2.27%
<a href="#">West Africa</a>	268,997,245	36,152,847	13.43%	3.36%
Total	885,103,542	135,211,325	15.27%	12.57%

# Catholics By Region

## Catholic Church in Oceania

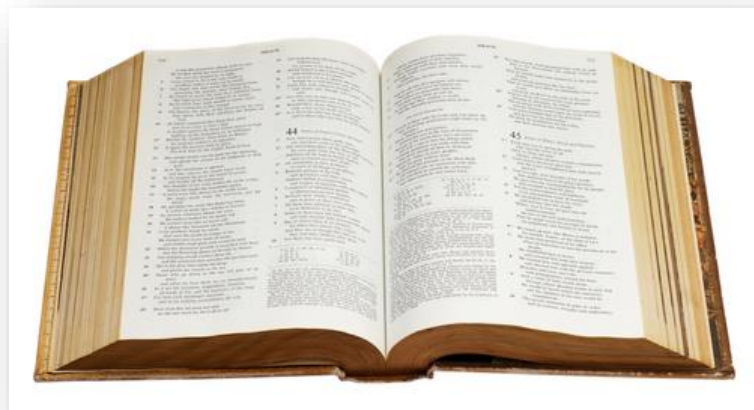
Region	Total population	Catholic	% Catholic	% of global Catholic pop.
<u>Oceania</u>	30,686,468	7,747,654	25.24%	0.72%

## Catholic Church in the Middle East

Region	Total population	Catholic	% Catholic	% of global Catholic pop.
<u>Middle East</u>	260,026,365	2,990,573	1.15%	0.27%

# Some Core Catholic Beliefs

- God has worked to restore our perfect union with him, lost through Original Sin.
- God sent his only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, as savior.
- God revealed himself to be Trinity.
- Christ established the Catholic Church on the foundation of the Apostles.



# Some Core Catholic Practices

- The Seven Sacraments
- The Sacrament of the Eucharist is the heart of the Church's life
- Celebrating Sunday as the Lord's Day and the events of the Liturgical Year
- Following the Ten Commandments and defending human life



# Some Catholic Attitudes

- Recognition that all creation is sacred
- Faith in the essential goodness of the human person
- Reliance on both faith and reason, both science and religion
- Emphasis on community life and communal worship



## Catholicism means . . .

- Read the **Live It! sidebar “Young People’s Testimony,”** on page 16 of your student handbook
- Write a similar personal view of Catholicism in your notebooks



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# WHAT CONSTITUTES A PRACTICING CATHOLIC?