

# Sharing Our Story

THE FOUR MARKS OF THE CHURCH:

ONE

HOLY

CATHOLIC

APOSTOLIC

THESE FOUR CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CHURCH, LINKED TO EACH OTHER, ARE ESSENTIAL FEATURES OF THE CHURCH AND HER MISSION IN THE WORLD.

THIS IS OUR STORY...



<https://youtu.be/rJJ8i4wSFMY>

OCIA Assumption Church JAN. 27, 2026

As You hear the Gospels proclaimed,  
what do you think is the mission or  
purpose of God's Church in the world?

- ▶ Share the Good News of God's Love is for Everyone
- ▶ Care for the Poor
- ▶ Give Praise and Worship to God



# What does it mean to be a Christian?

- ▶ If a man wishes to come after me, he must deny his very self, take up his cross, and follow in my footsteps. Whoever would preserve his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will preserve it." Mk 8:34-38.
- ▶ "Who is of the greatest importance in the Kingdom of God? He called a little child over and stood him in their midst and said: I assure you, unless you change and become like little children, you will not enter the Kingdom of God." Mt. 18:1-3.

As You hear the Gospel proclaimed,  
what do you think is God's Desire for  
the Church?

- ▶ What did Jesus invite his disciples to do?
- ▶ How did Jesus teach, preach, and reveal God's Kingdom?
- ▶ How has the Church continued to spread the gift of Jesus throughout the world?
- ▶ “Love God with your whole heart and your neighbor as yourself.” (Jesus)

# Our Story is a journey through history of growth and challenge.

- ▶ The Apostolic Age- from biblical times to 150 AD  
The spread and formation of the early Christian community



# “Be ONE as the Father and I are One”

## How is this possible in the midst of Diversity:

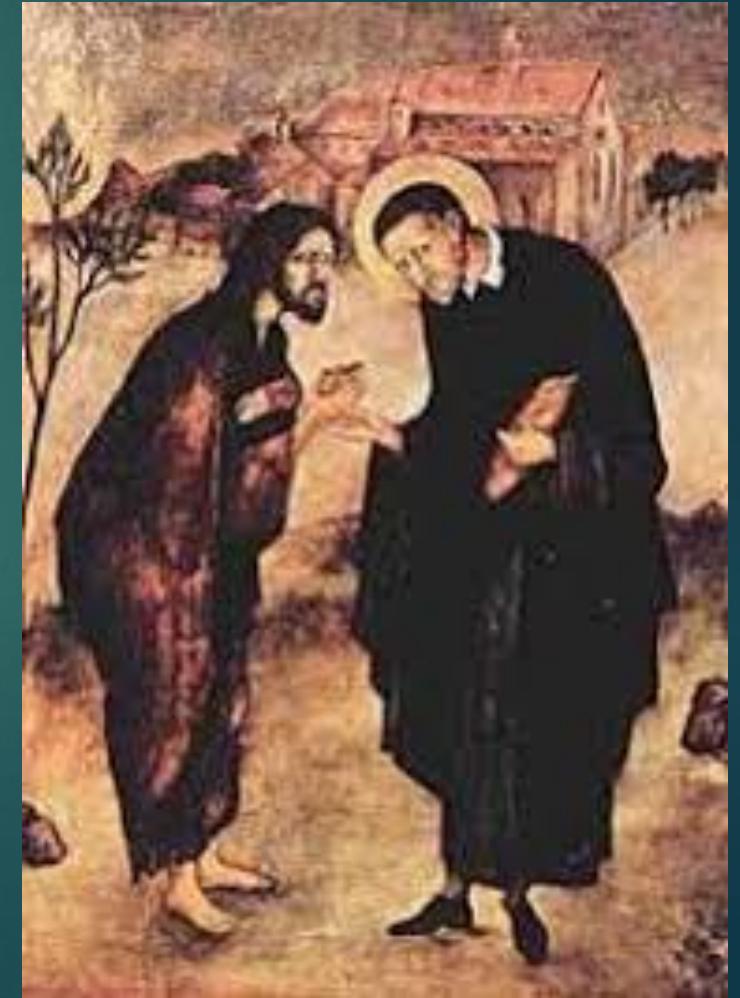
- ▶ Many Nationalities and Languages- Mass is celebrated in 45 languages every Sunday in Los Angeles- Vernacular
- ▶ Religious Devotions- ways we meet God in a personal way. It is laced with cultural, familial, and national customs.

# ONE: It's a singular, united, and global Church under Jesus Christ

- ▶ We strive to live and work toward being One Body of Christ. Even in the midst of cultural, ethnic, social, economic, ..... Diversity there is a unity of purpose and desire, through time and ages we seek our Oneness.
- ▶ Rooted in Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition
- ▶ In our Diversity we collaborate our Unity

# HOLY: Church as the Body of Christ led by the Holy Spirit in heart & mind.

- ▶ What does Holiness Look Like?
- ▶ What is the holiest way of life?



# We are made holy by God's grace Persecution and Martyrdom

“The Blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church”  
– Tertullian, 197 A.D.



# Sent Forth to Spread the Good News: Evangelization of Europe



# Holy: A Way of Living the Life of Christ



Benedict: Monk   Francis & Dominic- Friars   Louise & Vincent de Paul-  
Apostolic life

# An Ordinary Life lived with purpose and meaning in holiness

Joy and Laughter



Love and Gratitude



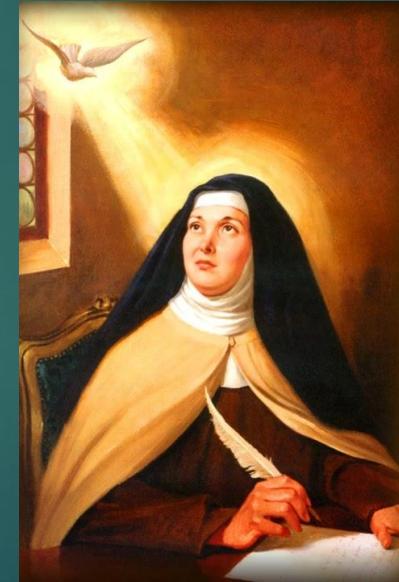
# And Still More “Holy” Mystics of 12<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> Centuries



Meister Eckhart



Catherine of Siena



Teresa of Avila

# Holy Moments of Grace

Take Lord , Receive,  
All I have and possess  
My Memory,  
Understanding,  
My entire will  
Give Me only love and  
your grace, that's  
enough for me  
Your Love and your  
grace, are enough for  
me.



Time for a  
Break

The Spirit is  
willing but  
the flesh  
needs a  
Recharge



CATHOLIC- Means “Universal” We spread the Word of God to the world



# Led by the Spirit: Go forth and teach all nations...Baptize and Bless



# Roman and Byzantine Empires: What impact does language and world view have?



# A world of difference: Rise of Church and States...



# The Big Breakup- Catholic vs Protestant



# Spread and Formation of a Christian World View-

- ▶ Councils of the Church- Niceae, Constantinople, Ephesus, Chalcedon
- ▶ Scripture and Law: Creeds, Code of Law, Cult- Form of Worship, Canon of Scripture, Community life
- ▶ Monasticism, formation of church life: parish life, Christian ways of living

# Temporal and Spiritual Authority Diversity challenges the Universality

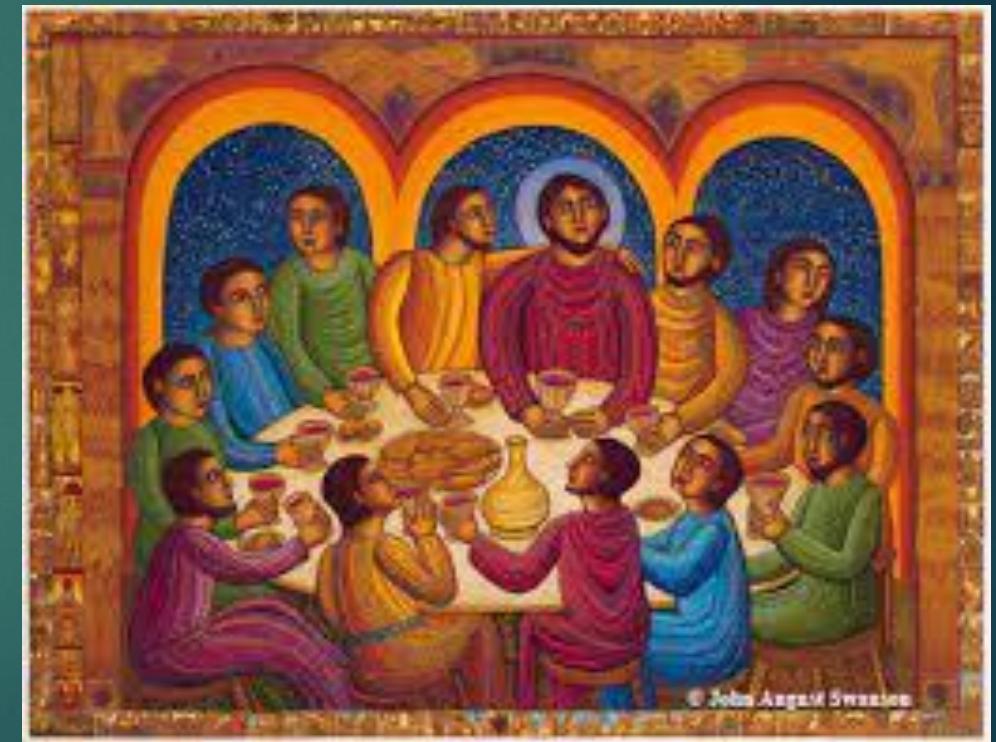


Orthodox Christianity in the East... Latin Christianity in the West

# Age of Christendom- Middle Ages

- ▶ Distinguishes the two spheres: Sacred and the Secular
- ▶ The spiritual hierarchy mediated to the laity through the temporal hierarchy
- ▶ Age of the Great Cathedrals- Glory of God by Human Hands
  - ▶ Confraternities and Guilds
- ▶ Age of Chivalry- Feudal period
  - ▶ Defending the spiritual realm by use of force in the name of religious virtue

# APOSTOLIC- origins and beliefs started our with the Apostles and past on to future generations



# Sent Forth to Spread the Good News: Evangelization



# Meeting the Challenges of the Day

- ▶ What does it mean to be Church?
- ▶ How do we share our relationship with God, others, society?
- ▶ Discerning the signs of the times.....
  - ▶ Faith and Science
  - ▶ Christian Morality and Social Teaching
  - ▶ Religious questions and challenges

# We are Rooted in Scripture and Tradition- Vatican Council II (1960s)

- ▶ Seek what is our Tradition- reclaim and refresh the sources and foundations of the Christian Life
- ▶ Reclaim the essentials of Faith, Hope, Love
- ▶ Reach our in dialogue with the world- mend the wounds and heal the hurts
- ▶ Proclaim the Good News for all to hear
- ▶ Persuade and Invite

# Make Disciples Today: One, Holy, Catholic & Apostolic

- ▶ Industrial Age, Human Progress, Our Family Home, Science & Faith
- ▶ Biblical Movement- live the Social Gospel
- ▶ Liturgical Movement- Liturgy reflects lay action
- ▶ Social Activism- Lay Action
  - ▶ “Faith Communities Observe, Reflect, Act- Lectio Divina

# Living the Christian Life

- ▶ “The Church was founded to spread the Kingdom of Christ over all the earth for the glory of God, to make all partakers in redemption and salvation...
- ▶ The apostolate is lived in faith, hope, and love poured out by the Holy Spirit into the hearts of all the members of the Church. And the precept of charity, which is the Lord’s greatest commandment, urges all Christians to work for the glory of God... (AA. 2-3)

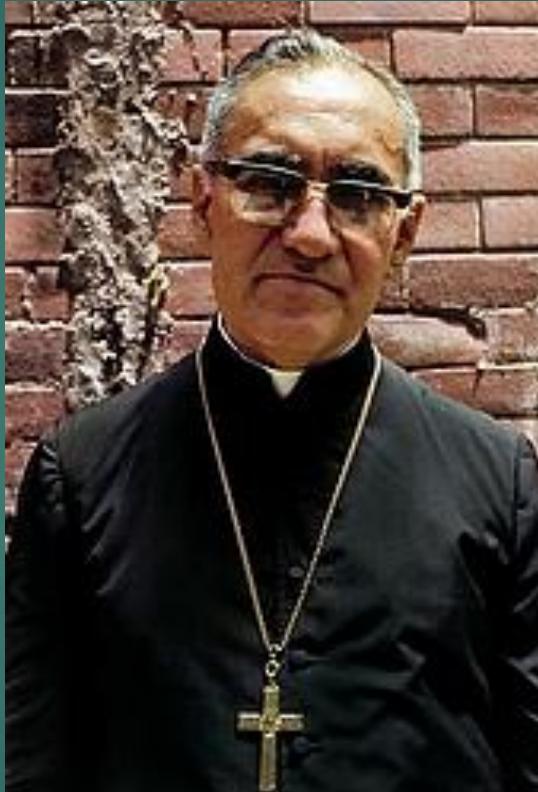
# Discipleship Today

- ▶ “the People of God share the priestly, prophetic, and kingly office of Christ, and carry on the mission of the whole Christian people in the Church and in the world.”  
*Lumen Gentium*
- ▶ Universal Call to Holiness- Chapter V  
“all Christians are called to the fullness of Christian life and to the perfection of love...” (LG #40)

# A “Holy” Life comes in many forms



St. Maximilian  
Kolbe 1894-1941



Oscar Romero  
1917-1980



St. Teresa of  
Calcutta 1910-  
1997

# A holy life comes in many forms



# Snapshot of the recent past: Role of Papacy in the World



John Paul II



Benedict XVI

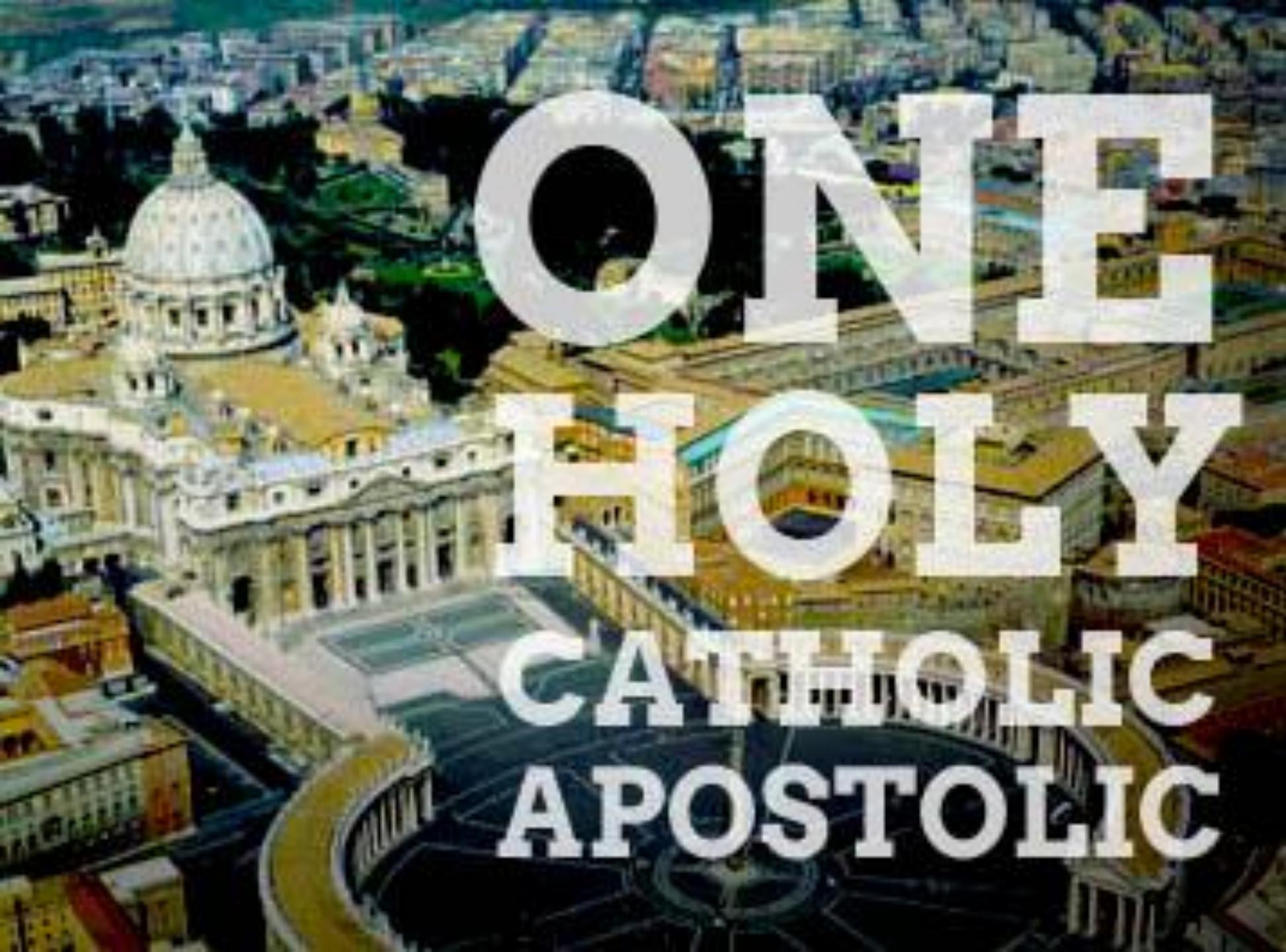


Francis



Our story is everyone's story because our relationship with God is rooted in the One God, who makes us Holy, sends us forth into the world, to share the Mystery of God evident in our lives.



A high-angle, color photograph of the St. Peter's Basilica and its surrounding buildings in the Vatican City. The iconic dome of St. Peter's is on the left, and the surrounding cityscape of Rome is visible in the background.

ONE

HOLY  
CATHOLIC  
APOSTOLIC