

CATHOLICS: THE "ORIGINAL" CHRISTIANS – DISCUSSION OUTLINE

- A Celebrating People: Easter every day – the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass (a Sacrament, Sacrifice, Real Presence, Sacred Meal [Holy Communion], & Pledge of Future Glory). See, *YOUCAT* nos. 208 – 223 & vocabulary word “transubstantiation” in margin at page 129. Contra, Lutheran “consubstantiation” & Calvinist Eucharist as a “mere symbol.”
- A People with a Structure: Catholic Church –
 - Teacher (The Word or Divine Revelation: Sacred Tradition, Sacred Scripture, & definitive interpretation of the “infallible” Magisterium – *not* “*sola scriptura*”). See, *YOUCAT* nos. 12 & 141 – 144 & vocabulary word “magisterium” in margin at page 20. See also, *YOUCAT* at pages 22 – 23 for the Catholic, versus Protestant, “canon” of the Bible & recall the history behind the differences.
 - Sanctifier (The Sacraments: of Initiation – Baptism, Confirmation, & Eucharist; of Healing – Penance & Anointing of the Sick; and at the Service of Communion – Holy Orders & Matrimony).
 - Ruler (hierarchy – pope, bishops, priests, deacons, consecrated people & lay people). See, *YOUCAT* no. 140. Protestant separation from the Church lost them Petrine (Mt. 16: 13 – 19) & Apostolic succession (Mt. 28: 18 – 20) & the Sacrament of Holy Orders, effectively eliminating substantially any of the Sacraments. See, *YOUCAT* nos. 250 – 256, 259.
- A People with Friends in High Places: Not only through Jesus Christ to the Father in the Holy Spirit, but also with intercession of Mary & the Saints – Not Latria, Worship which is reserved for God alone, but rather hyper – dulia (for Mary) & dulia (for saints), veneration only. See, *YOUCAT* nos. 85, 146, 213, 483, 487, & 497.
- A People with a Moral Conscience: “Objective,” not “Subjective” Truth; *faith & works, not Lutheran “sola fide”/“sola gratia,” nor Calvinist “predestination.”* A continuing journey where justification is based upon our freedom cooperating with God’s law & grace. There is no “once saved always saved.” See, *YOUCAT* nos. 337 – 342 & Mt. 25 (use of time & talent + test of love). See also, *Catechism* nos. 1471 – 1479 with respect to indulgences, mischaracterized by Luther in 1517 & misunderstood today.

Adapted from out – of – print pamphlet: Joanne McPherson, *Catholics: Christians with a Difference* (Franciscan Communications 1984).