

What do we need the Church for?



PRAY

My Lord and my God!

You are close to each of us. But we must not come to you alone. You want us to mutually accept one another in a loving manner so that no one is lost. Thank you for deeply attaching us to your Church. Amen.



CONTEMPLATE

One person reads the Bible passage aloud.
Short silence.

Exchange: *What particularly appealed to you?*



STUDY

1. Read YOUCAT text sentence-for-sentence. Then one person reads the text aloud in full.
2. Three minutes of silence.
3. Each person reads a word or phrase aloud (without comment) that he or she has noticed.
4. Explain briefly in the next round why you have chosen the sentence (e.g. memories, questions, etc.).



DISCUSS

Also discuss your own questions on this topic!

Treasure Book: *Take five minutes to write down what you don't want to forget.*



CHALLENGE

Our **CHALLENGES** are just suggestions you can make in addition to your study guide meetings. You can also replace them with stronger, more fitting, more original or better ones. Just let us know at feedback@youcat.org.

#YOUCATChallenge: Share your experience on Facebook or Instagram.



1 Cor 12:27

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

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What does "Church" mean?

The Greek word for Church is "ekklesia" = those who are called forth. All of us who are baptized and believe in God are called forth by the Lord. Together we are the Church. Christ is, as Paul says, the Head of the Church. We are his body. [748-757]

When we receive the sacraments and hear God's Word, Christ is in us and we are in him—that is the Church. The intimate communion of life with Jesus that is shared personally by all the baptized is described in Sacred Scripture by a wealth of images: Here it speaks about the People of God and in another passage about the Bride of Christ; now the Church is called Mother, and again she is God's family, or she is compared with a wedding feast. Never is the Church a mere institution, never just the "official Church" that we could do without. We will be upset by the mistakes and defects in the Church, but we can never distance ourselves from her, because God has made an irrevocable decision to love her and does not forsake her despite all the sins of her members. The Church is God's presence among us men. That is why we must love her.

1. If you are looking for comparisons to what "church" should be according to Jesus' will, what comes to your mind?
2. Why is the Church more than a human institution?
3. Where have I experienced what "church" is?
4. What are my gifts, and how can I use them to participate in my Church community?



Go to your parish priest (you can bring him a cake) and ask him where and how you could support him.

You can also build up a team and go to him. It is important that you always work in and with your parish.

Do you accept this challenge?

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