

Catechism Course 2021
Clondalkin
13 The Church (Continued)

In the creed we say that the Church is one, holy, catholic and apostolic.

One: there is one body of Christ. All Christians must work for unity.

Holy: The Church is sanctified by the Holy Spirit, even when its members do not lead perfect lives.

Catholic: The Church is universal, for all people. Each local Church is fully the Church.

Apostolic: The articles of faith come from the Apostles, and there is an unbroken line of bishops from the Apostles.

The members of the Church can be divided into:

1. **Laity.** Their main mission is to make Christ present in the world of politics, culture, economics, family life.
2. **Hierarchy.** Their mission is teaching, sanctifying and governing in the Church (deriving from Christ's priestly, prophetic and kingly offices).
3. **Consecrated Life.** Those who look to the coming of Christ's kingdom. Live as a witness to that kingdom by taking vows of poverty, chastity and obedience.

Communion of Saints

The Communion of Saints is the people of God, the Church, present on earth, in purgatory and in heaven.

The members of Church on earth, in purgatory and in heaven are united with each other in prayer. We pray for the dead, and we pray to the saints in heaven.

Further Reference

Catechism 811-962

Joseph Ratzinger, Called to Communion

Charles J., The Theology of the Church