

Holy, Holy, Holy

God makes us holy

- We are set apart for His purpose
- We are sanctified by His presence
- We are made a new creation, and are no longer merely natural
- We are called to be a Mirror of the Savior's power to save
- We no longer belong to our-selves
- The Universal Call to holiness means that because of our baptism, we have the responsibility to make each other saints.

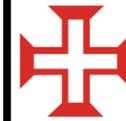


Saint Peter's Catholic Church

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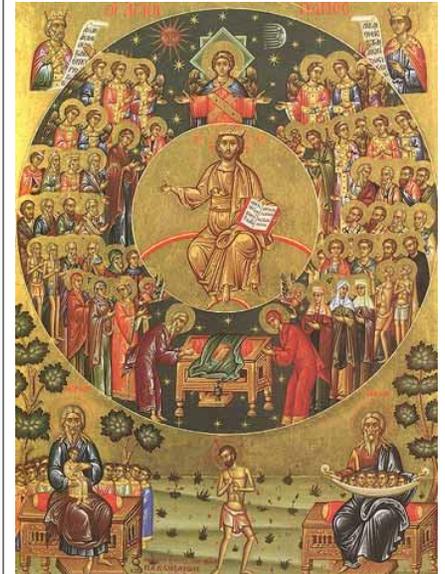
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Serving the People
of God

The Four Marks: The Church is Holy



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The Second Mark of the Church: Holy

The Church is holy. What does that mean? First we have to look at the meaning of Holy in Judaism because that is the source from which this term comes.

The Meaning of Holy:

The Hebrew word K'dosh means holy, wholly other, set apart. The Bible tells us that the follow-ers of Jesus we are "a chosen people, a holy na-tion, a people set apart." So you can see the rela-tionship between the two religions.

Set apart for a purpose

When something is set apart, it has a con-secrated purpose or dedicated purpose. Things that are dedicated to one use may not be used for another purpose. In my house when we were children, each of us had 'our own' glass with our initial on it. That glass was meant for me or my sister. If she used my glass, I felt that was 'wrong' and appealed to the local adult to straighten her out about whose glass she was using.

When we are baptized, we are dedicated to God's use. The Church is the assembly of those dedicated to Christ. Filled with these dedicated people She takes on the mark of our dedication. She becomes the Body of Christ.

Permeated with God's life

When we are baptized, the Holy God, the Blessed Trinity comes into us and makes His abode in our souls. We become a holy dwelling place and an instrument and sign of

God's grace-presence in the world. We are also redeemed from our fallen sinful nature. Because of this we have God-life in and through us and when we act for God, He uses us for his purpose.

God is wholly other than us

Related to being set apart, we reflect on the person of God and what God is. This is most easily done by saying what God is and isn't. God isn't like us, but God became human in Christ. Still, Jesus wasn't merely human. We are immortal, but God is infinitely immortal. We have knowl-edge but God knows all that is. We are finite, but God is infinite. We are called to perfection, but God is perfect. God is Loving, but not as we are loving. We are powerful, but God is All-powerful. Because of these differences, God is wholly other than us, though we are made in His image and likeness.

The Church is a society, but not like any other society because it was brought into being by the action of God. God sent His Son, God sent His Spirit. God guides and guarantees certain things about the Church that give it a level of perfection that other societies cannot attain to by them-selves. The Church has the fullness of what has been revealed by God to the world. The Church, then is wholly other. Yet there are problems with these asser-tions because the Church is made up of imperfect peo-ple , people who slide back into sin. Because of this we say that the church, though perfect in its design by God is al-ways in need of reform, repentance and conver-sion.

The problem is our sinfulness

The Church's dedicated purpose is to mirror Christ to the world in every age. However, She often, and unfortunately falls short of this pur-pose.

So how must we understand this? Let's take an example. We have an ideal of what a good man is,

what attributes the best men have, and yet many instances or individuals don't quite measure up. Does this make them any less a man? Does their incompetence change what they are? Of course not. A man conforms in outward appearance to what we think of when we say 'man'. But at the same time, he will reach some approximation of what we think a Veal man' is depending on his willing-ness to conform himself to that ideal. It can be said that a boy is ordered toward be-coming a man by his very nature. But what he does with it is in many ways up to him.

The Author of Holiness, the Lord Our God who saved us, imputed holiness to us by his cross, death and resurrection, and the gifting of the Holy Spirit.

Allow yourself to begin to live for God, out of gratitude for the great gift of holiness he has given you. By repenting of your sins, turning away from sinful ways and realizing that you, bought and paid for by Christ. Be-gin to think of yourself as Holy: dedicated, set apart, sanctified, and indwelt by the very Holy Trinity of God. And then imagine what such a person would do in every in-stance of your life. Then you will begin the path toward holiness.



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