

Homily Notes  
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Sunday, June 12, 2011

## The Four Pillars of the Church

One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic

### One

The Church is ONE - God is the God of absolute truth. There cannot be more than one True God, more than one true Faith or more than one True Church.

- Jesus prayed to his Father that we may be one as he and the Father are one (**John 17:11**).
- **Romans 12:5** - "So in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others."
  - We do not form one body due to the divisions within Christianity. There has been great confusion in the Body of Christ due to the divisions in the Church.

### Holy

The Church is called to be Holy. It must be the bride of Christ. This does not mean that every single member will be Holy, but that the deposit of faith that resides in Her is Holy and blameless. (**Eph 5:25** to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.)

### Catholic

Catholic is a Greek word meaning "Universal." We are called to be the Universal Church of Christ. (**Matt 28: 19 - 20** "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.")

### Apostolic

We are to hold to the faith given to the Apostles. The Apostles were chosen to be the first leaders of the Church that would eventually spread to all the corners of the earth. (**Ephesians 2:19** Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.)

Catechism of the Catholic Church # 870 "The sole Church of Christ which in the Creed we profess to be one, holy, catholic, and apostolic, . . . subsists in the Catholic Church, which is governed by the successor of Peter and by the bishops in communion with him. Nevertheless, many elements of sanctification and of truth are found outside its visible confines"(LG 8).

