

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Cycle A

**Know Your Faith**

February 7, 2016

**Peter and Apostolic Tradition**

Jesus appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. After that Jesus appeared to more than 500 brothers at once. 1Cor 15:1-11

Paul proclaims to the Corinthians that he has a unity with the apostles, as their leader....and with Jesus' teaching of 500 "brothers."

Paul emphasizes the unified teaching authority of the apostles, whose successors we call our bishops, and declares his own participation in this teaching authority stating:

*You are also being saved. If you hold fast to the word I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. For I handed on to you as of first importance what I also received:*  
*that Christ died for our sins in accordance with Scripture;*

Catholics believe **the Church is both an organism of the body of believers and an organization with a hierarchy** of pope, bishops, priests, deacons, and laity----working together until the "end of the age."

Catholics believe **it is Jesus' intention to provide for the Apostles to have successors.**

Catholics believe **through (laying on of hands) the Catholic Church traces herself historically in an unbroken succession of bishops back to the Apostles & the early Church.** CCC 815-822

Thus, Catholicism greatly emphasizes historical and doctrinal continuity while working to develop passion and intensity of commitment in its members.

Biblical Authority and Ecclesiastical Authority work together and are called **Apostolic Tradition.**

**In what ways does the Bishop unify the Catholic Church?**

