

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Cycle B

September 6, 2015

Know Your Faith

“I was raised Catholic”

Those who have had the Catholic experience from conception to natural death

remember and feel close to Jesus in the traditions of the Catholic Church.

Jesus founded His Church on Peter and His Apostles. He commissioned His Apostles and their successors to pass on His teachings to others in order to *make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.* Mat. 28: 19 CCC 1122

The teachings of Christ were passed on orally and also in the writings of the Letters of Peter, Paul, Timothy, James, and Jude and also through the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. It was through the Authority of the Catholic Church the 73 books of the Bible were collected and the Canon of Scripture was closed for all time, around 400 AD. CCC 126

The books of the Bible are also an example of Catholic Tradition.

The Catholic Church also passes on the teachings of Jesus through the 7 Sacraments. BAPTISM, PENNANCE, EUCHARIST, CONFIRMATION, MARRIAGE, ORDINATION, SACRAMENT OF THE SICK.

THE PURPOSE OF THE SACRAMENTS IS TO SANCTIFY PEOPLE, TO BUILD UP THE BODY OF CHRIST AND, FINALLY, TO GIVE WORSHIP TO GOD. CCC 1123

The 7 Sacraments are also examples of Tradition.

Throughout the last 2000 years

the faith has been passed on through the richness of customs and practices in cultures.

Some examples of these traditions are:

Signs and Symbols: holy water, icons, relics, the Crucifix, calling the Church “Catholic,” calling priests “Father,” use of incense, and candles, Novenas, and special prayers, such as the Rosary, calling the worship of Jesus “The Mass,” making the Sign of the Cross, giving blessings, wearing metals of saints etc.

Did Jesus condemn tradition? NO! Instead, Jesus called the Pharisees and scribes to intensify their faith by taking traditions to heart.

St. Paul tells us to *stand firm and hold fast to the traditions that you were taught, either by an oral statement or by a letter of ours.* 2 Thes. 2:15

When someone says, “I was raised Catholic,” can you ask What tradition do you love the most, and give its Scriptural foundation ?

Source: Patrick Madrid. Why Is That in Tradition? (Our Sunday Visitor, Huntington, IN, 2002)

