

# The Church

When we hear the word 'Church' we often tend to think of Sundays and going to Mass; we think of a building, a place we journey to. But this is simply not the case. The Church is not a building...the Church is you!

**“Our Christian identity is belonging to a people: the Church. Without this, we are not Christians.” Pope Francis**

Pope Francis speaks many times about the Church “...whose doors should always remain open.” This doesn't mean that the Sanctuary is always open, it means that the doors to your heart should always be open... Open to those who are in need, those who are without peace, those who do not know Jesus.

**“We are here for one another. The Church cannot grow if people are detached, cold and bad-humored. The Church can only grow through love.” Pope Francis**

The Church is universal, 'meaning all', built on a foundation; “...upon this rock I will build my Church.” (Mt.16:18) Upon one man 'I will build my church'? No! But upon the faith of the faithful 'I will build my Church'. The Church needs leaders who are open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, who accompanies and guides the Church along Her journey. We are all called by Baptism and sent through Confirmation to be leaders in the Church. To bring the message of God's love to all, everywhere, all the time.

**"The Holy Spirit is the living presence of God in the Church" Pope Francis**

**“...we though many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.” 1 Cor. 10:17**

We are the Church of God, we are many, we are different, but we are ONE! We are one family, not just in our parish, not just as Catholics. We are ALL ONE in God; no religion, nationality, class, race or stereotype could change that. We are God's children; he died for ALL of us, not just those who believe, but especially for those who don't believe. Do we live the words “Love one another as I have loved you” (Jn. 13:34)? This is the motto of the Church, this is Her foundation, this is Her call, this is Her Spirit! Is this how we are viewed? Is this how we 'the Church' live? Every day we must ask ourselves: How can I live as the Church of God?

*Jesus,*

*You so loved me that you died for me, for my sins.*

*You died so that I may live and exist as the Church that you established in the name of the Father. Help me to see that I am the rock You wish to build upon.*

*I am the clay You desire to mold. I am the seed of faith You wish to grow.*

*I surrender to You all that is not worthy of mentioning.*

*I open my heart to the guidance of Your love...the very Spirit of God.*

*Grant that I may live every day and in every way as the ONE Church of God*

*Amen*