

Symbolon Episode 8: Why do I need the Church?

We Believe: Ch. 7 – Jesus Brings Us to Fullness of Life

Opening Prayer:

*Lord Jesus, bless us tonight as we learn about your Church.
Open our hearts and our minds to understand the great love you
have for us as you welcome all through the waters of Baptism to
participate in both the divine and human aspects of your Church
and the salvation you offer through it. Amen*

Song: I am the vine, you are the branches.

- Catechism references for further reflection:

- The Church is One: CCC 813-814
- The Church is Holy: CCC 823-825
- The Church is Catholic: CCC 830-831
- The Church is Apostolic: CCC 857
- The bonds of unity in the Church: CCC 815
- Bishops as successors of the Apostles: CCC 861-862

- Questions for Discussion:

- What is “The Church”? What do you think of Jesus describing Himself as “the vine” and we, united to Him in the Church, as “the branches”?
- Does Jesus play an active role today in the Church He founded?
- What role(s) do you (or will you) play in Jesus’ Church?
- While we believe Jesus wants to have a personal relationship with each of us, what else does Jesus expect of us?
- How does Jesus use His Church to dispense Sanctifying Grace?
- How is the Church both human and divine? How have you experienced the human and divine aspects of the Church?
- The four marks of the Church are:
 - One
 - Holy
 - Catholic
 - Apostolic...what do these mean?

- **Weekly Gospel Reading: 3rd Sunday of Advent (Mt 11:2-11)**

When John the Baptist heard in prison of the works of the Christ,
he sent his disciples to Jesus with this question,

"Are you the one who is to come,
or should we look for another?"

Jesus said to them in reply,

"Go and tell John what you hear and see:

the blind regain their sight,

the lame walk,

lepers are cleansed,

the deaf hear,

the dead are raised,

and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them.

And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me."

As they were going off,

Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John,

"What did you go out to the desert to see?

A reed swayed by the wind?

Then what did you go out to see?

Someone dressed in fine clothing?

Those who wear fine clothing are in royal palaces.

Then why did you go out? To see a prophet?

Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.

This is the one about whom it is written:

Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you;

he will prepare your way before you.

Amen, I say to you,

among those born of women

there has been none greater than John the Baptist;

yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

- **Closing prayer**