

What does it mean to be Catholic?

You are about to fully initiated into the Catholic Church. What does that mean? In your Catholic Youth Bible (St. Mary's Press, New American Bible, Revised Edition), turn to page C33 (it is the colored section following page 1536), read the first paragraph of the section titled "Being Catholic"

Our Beliefs: The Catholic faith was the faith started by Jesus Christ. In that upper room, nearly 2000 years ago, he met with those twelve men (actually 11, since Judas was gone by then), and commissioned them to go forth and bring others into the faith – the faith that would offer them SALVATION. Did you get that? JESUS started the Catholic Church nearly 2000 years ago. This is the real thing, not some religion started by a prophet (although he is referred to as a prophet sometimes), or some mystic, or even by some highly-schooled man. Jesus is GOD, the second leg of our Trinity (God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit). You can't get any more authentic than that.

Our faith IS the truth. What God has taught us through Christ is what is real. Read and discuss the section titled "Core Catholic Beliefs". After each bullet item, pause and discuss. These are the basic beliefs of the Catholic Church and are what you agreeing to when you become a member of this Church. Are there any beliefs here that you do not agree with? If so, discuss those with your sponsor and look for validation of them in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the Bible, or through an accredited Catholic website. Still uncertain? Bring those questions with you to your interview.

Our Practices: The second section, titled "Core Catholic Practices" gives you an overview of our basic practices. Many of these have been discussed in the packets you have completed up to this point. Read these together with your mentor. Are any of these practices unfamiliar to you? Again, if so, seek to find the supportive material for these points in the Catechism, the Bible, and/or an accredited Catholic website. Note these items for your interview also.

The last section is this portion of your Catholic Youth Bible, is titled "**Core Catholic Attitudes**" is a great section that describes our basic attitude towards our faith, ourselves and others. Often people have a misconception of Catholics and our beliefs. It is just that, a misconception. These points should help validate our position as Catholics, on how we see the world and treat others. Read and discuss each bullet point with your mentor.

These beliefs, practices and attitudes are the premise of our Catholic faith. This is what you are about to embrace through your confirmation. You are "confirming" your commitment to following Jesus Christ.

Let's be clear: Does commitment mean you are without some level of doubt? Or that you know everything? Or you are a Catholic Robot? **Absolutely NOT!** We are human! We have been given (by God) a brain, emotions, and **Free Will**. We are human, and therefore NOT perfect. He loves us so much that he wants us to discover things on our own for with it comes great joy and love (and sometimes sorrow and pain). There are times we all may experience doubt, struggle with following His instructions, and even fail. And that is okay! But that is where WE need to work at it. Just as a great musician or athlete continues to **practice regularly, take care of their bodies and minds, continue to challenge themselves, learn and grow, and surround themselves** with people who support them in their quest for greatness, we too, *must do those things for our faith.*

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY and use additional sheets of paper if necessary. Or use the fill-able PDF form online

Candidate Name _____

Mentor Name: _____ Mentor Email: _____

Meeting Date _____

1. How do you plan to implement the four steps to success outlined in the handout "What does it mean to be Catholic"?

a. Practice:

b. Take Care:

c. Learn and Grow

d. Surround Yourself: