



# The Catholic Church

## Her mission and members

DAVID O'BRIEN

This quiz can help you, your students, and your students' families review our Catholic faith. Find the answer key on page 3.

**1** What is the central mission of the Church?

- a) building the kingdom of God
- b) building churches
- c) bingo
- d) teaching the Ten Commandments

**2** A person becomes a Catholic Christian through the sacrament of \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) Marriage
- b) Holy Orders
- c) Confirmation
- d) Baptism

**3** The U.S. is dedicated to Mary under the title of \_\_\_\_\_. She is our patroness.

- a) Our Lady Undoer of Knots
- b) Our Lady of Guadalupe
- c) Immaculate Conception
- d) Our Lady of Sorrows

**4** After the resurrection but before he returned to heaven, Jesus gave the apostles the Great \_\_\_\_\_.

(Matthew 28:16-20)

- a) Assignment
- b) Commission
- c) Punishment
- d) Secret

**5** The word catholic means \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) from the Greek town of Katolicos
- b) a follower of Jesus
- c) religious
- d) universal

**6** The Church's mission has nothing to do with the world and its problems.

True | False

**7** Jesus identified himself with the poor and powerless when he said: "Whatever you did for one of these \_\_\_\_\_ brothers of mine, you did for me" (Matthew 25:40).

- a) religious
- b) powerful
- c) greatest
- d) least

**8** God's free gift of salvation is for \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) saints and perfect people
- b) bishops
- c) everyone
- d) older people

**9** Once Christ saves us from sin and eternal punishment, our life in Christ is nourished by \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) the sacraments
- b) fruits
- c) vegetables
- d) never sinning again

**10** Forgiving those who hurt us is one of the spiritual works of \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) liturgy
- b) mercy
- c) forgiveness
- d) amnesty

**11** Laypeople have the special mission to spread the Gospel and transform the world.

True | False

**12** What countries in the world have Catholics?

- a) all countries
- b) only Catholic countries
- c) the U.S. and Mexico
- d) European countries

**13** \_\_\_\_\_ are role models for Catholics because of their example of heroic virtue and faithfulness to God. They also intercede for us in heaven.

- a) tax collectors
- b) Pharisees
- c) angels
- d) saints



**14** \_\_\_\_\_ continue Jesus' ministry of teaching the faith.

- a) Choir members b) Altar servers  
c) Catholic doctors d) Catechists

**15** St. Thérèse of Lisieux is the patron saint of missionaries even though she never traveled anywhere and lived in a cloistered convent. True | False

**16** God the Father sent Jesus to preach the Good News of God's love and mercy. Jesus sends the \_\_\_\_\_ to do the same.

- a) Church b) school principal  
c) astronaut d) judge

**17** The Catholic Church helps all of these groups except \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) soldiers b) artificial intelligence robots  
c) non-Christians d) immigrants and refugees

**18** \_\_\_\_\_ the life and dignity of all people is part of Catholic social doctrine.

- a) Defending b) Threatening  
c) Spoiling d) Speaking negatively about

**19** Parents are supported in their efforts to teach and form their children in the Catholic faith by Catholic schools and \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) bulletin announcements  
b) cry rooms c) religious education programs  
d) donuts after Mass

**20** Religious priests, nuns, and monks take vows so they can completely dedicate their lives to the service of the Church and others.

True | False

## Kids' quiz *Our Catholic Church*

This quiz can help your students and your students' families review our Catholic faith. Check answers against the answer key on page 3.

**1** Jesus taught: "I give you a new commandment: "

\_\_\_\_\_ one another"

(John 13:34).

- a) Go to church with  
b) Love c) Pray for  
d) Share with

**2** \_\_\_\_\_ are the leaders of the Catholic Church all over the world.

- a) Bishops b) Presidents  
c) Governors d) Emperors

**3** Catholic hospitals continue Jesus' ministry of \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) teaching b) praying c) preaching  
d) healing

**4** Children are not expected to really live their Catholic faith — only adults are. True | False

**5** The world headquarters of the Catholic Church is in \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) Washington D.C.  
b) Beijing, China  
c) the Vatican in Rome, Italy  
d) Buenos Aires, Argentina

**6** The birthday of the Church is \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) Christmas b) Ash Wednesday  
c) Pentecost  
d) Easter

**7** In the Great Commandment (Matthew 22:37–39), Jesus teaches that we must love \_\_\_\_\_ and our neighbor.

- a) our teachers b) God c) our friends  
d) our parents

**8** The Catholic Church has \_\_\_\_\_ baptized members.

- a) 1.2 billion b) 1 million c) 70 x 7  
d) 100

**9** The central act of worship for Catholics is \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) a novena b) service c) the Rosary  
d) the Mass

**10** Visiting someone in prison is a way to live your Catholic faith.

True | False



**DAVID O'BRIEN**, MDiv, MA, is the faith formation director at St. Timothy parish in Florida. He teaches theology at St. Leo University and is the author of *There's a Beer in My Handbag: Unusual Thoughts about Everyday Faith*.

**ANSWERS TO Catholic I.Q.** from pages 16 and 17

1. **a)** “[T]he Church, endowed with the gifts of her founder and faithfully observing his precepts of charity, humility and self-denial, receives the mission of proclaiming and establishing among all peoples the Kingdom of Christ and of God, and she is on earth the seed and the beginning of that kingdom,” (CCC, 768).
2. **d)** Through being born again of water and the Spirit in Baptism, we are freed from sin, become members of the Body of Christ, and are made sharers in the Church’s mission (see CCC, 782, 1213).
3. **c)** The Catholic’s whole life — words and actions — should reflect the love of God and point people to Jesus.
4. **b)** Jesus said: “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:19-20).
5. **d)** The Catholic community welcomes all people all around the world, making room for the many cultures, races, ethnicities, and local customs of faith.
6. **False.** As disciples of Christ, Catholics work so that every aspect of life follows God’s will: family life, nations, government, entertainment, and all of society.
7. **d)** St. Teresa of Calcutta explained her ministry to the sick, the helpless, and the dying by saying she was taking care of Jesus in the “distressing disguise of the poor.”
8. **c)** “God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life” (John 3:16).
9. **a)** Frequent reception of confession and Communion is recommended by many saints as a way to grow in holiness.
10. **b)** The spiritual works of mercy are: instruct the ignorant, counsel the doubtful, admonish the sinner, bear patiently with those

who wrong us, comfort the afflicted, and pray for the living and the dead.

11. **True.** Lay Catholics seek to change the world for Christ in the areas they have the most influence: home, work, culture, politics, and national and international relations.
12. **a)** There may be countries like Bhutan or Saudi Arabia where there are no or few Catholic churches, but Catholics still live there.
13. **d)** The Church canonizes saints to inspire and encourage us with their example of heroic actions and faithfulness to God (see CCC, 828).
14. **d)** Christ is the true teacher. All catechists serve as his spokespersons. “Every catechist should be able to apply to himself the mysterious words of Jesus: ‘My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me’” (CCC, 427).
15. **True.** Although she never left her convent, St. Thérèse prayed unceasingly for missionaries all over the world.
16. **a)** Jesus said: “I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God, because for this purpose I have been sent” (Luke 4:43). And later he said to his disciples: “Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15).
17. **b)** God created all human persons out of love, so the Church helps everyone without prejudice or distinction.
18. **a)** Catholics believe that “every person is precious, that people are more important than things, and that the measure of every institution is whether it threatens or enhances the life and dignity of the human person.” (From *USCCB.org*, and found at *CATmag.us/2CUNF8m*.)
19. **c)** Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children (see CCC, 2223).
20. **True.** They vow not to marry, always obey their religious superiors, and live simply so that their time, energy, and money can be used to do good. Their vows are poverty, chastity, and obedience.

## kids’ quiz

1. **b)** People will know that Catholics are disciples of Jesus when we love like Jesus loved (see John 13:35).
2. **a)** Bishops are the direct successors to the Apostles Jesus chose as the first leaders of the Church.
3. **d)** Because Jesus healed people that no one else would help or could help, Catholics, following Jesus’ example, started hospitals to serve everyone, especially the poor who can’t pay for a doctor.
4. **False.** If you are baptized, you are called to live like Jesus even if you are a child. Some famous child saints include: Maria Goretti (11 years old), Dominic Savio (14), Agnes of Rome (13), and Imelda Lambertini (11).
5. **c)** Both St. Peter (the first pope) and St. Paul were martyred for their Catholic faith in Rome, and the Church in Rome came to be looked upon as the leader of the Catholic churches throughout the world. The pope lives there today, in the Vatican.
6. **c)** At Pentecost (see Acts 2:1-13), the Holy Spirit gave the first disciples of Jesus the courage to accept their mission as the body of Christ and spread the Good News to the whole world.
7. **b)** To love God means to also love what God has created: ourselves, other people, and all of creation.
8. **a)** More than 40 percent of Catholics live in Latin America. Roman Catholicism is the world’s largest religion. Muslims make up the second largest religious group. Learn more from Pew Research at *CATmag.us/2DimXrr*.
9. **d)** Beginning with the Last Supper (Mark 14:12-26), Catholics have celebrated Christ’s presence in the Eucharist at every Mass.
10. **True.** Based on Matthew 25:35-40, the corporal works of mercy inspire Catholics to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, visit the sick and those in prison, and bury the dead.