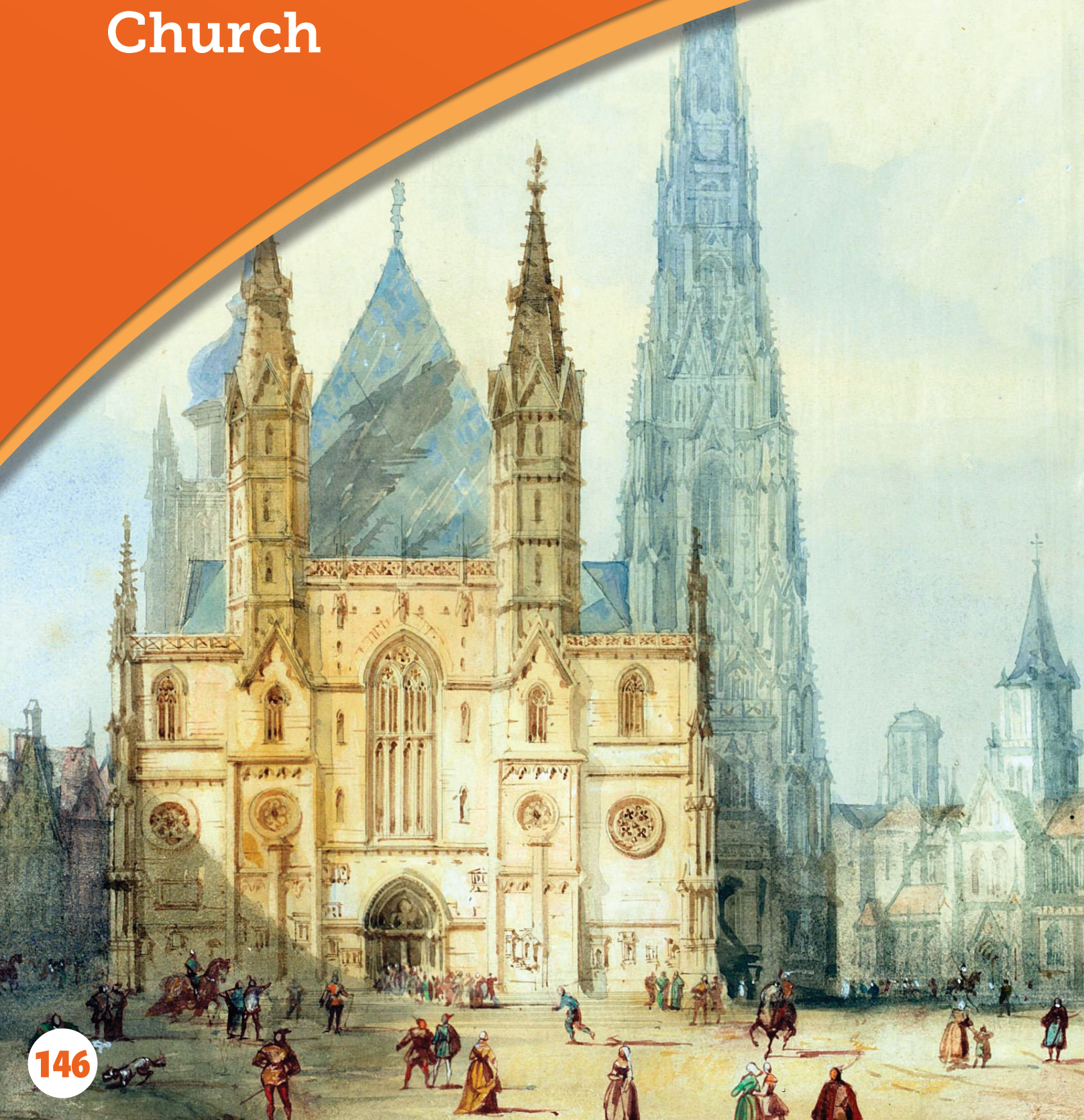


The Nature and Mission of the Catholic Church



Lesson 9 at a Glance



Learning Goals

- We study the history of the Church so that we can learn about our identity as Christians, why we are who we are, and to inform our future, built upon the successes, wisdom, and traditions of the past.
- The Church is the communion of the faithful (those who have been or are being saved by faith in Christ).
- Jesus accomplished His mission of salvation of all souls by His threefold office, or role, as priest, prophet, and king.
- Jesus established the Catholic Church during His earthly life and gave her His same mission.
- The Church carries out this mission in the same way Christ did, by exercising His priestly (liturgical), prophetic (doctrinal), and kingly (hierarchical) offices.



Lesson Plan Chart

DAY 1

Warm-Up: Teacher-guided activity

TEACHER'S
GUIDE PAGES

pg. 150

STUDENT
WORKBOOK PAGES

N/A

Activity: The Church

pg. 151

pg. 88

Formative Assessment: Teacher-guided activity

pg. 151

N/A

DAY 2

Warm-Up: Teacher-guided activity

TEACHER'S
GUIDE PAGES

pg. 155

STUDENT
WORKBOOK PAGES

N/A

Activity: Priest, Prophet, and King

pg. 155

pg. 91

Formative Assessment: My Experiences of Christ's Threefold Office

pg. 160

pg. 95

DAY 3

Warm-Up: Teacher-guided activity

TEACHER'S
GUIDE PAGES

pg. 161

STUDENT
WORKBOOK PAGES

N/A

Activity: The Mission and Offices of the Church

pg. 161

pg. 96

Formative Assessment: Liturgy, Doctrine, Hierarchy

pg. 161

pg. 98



Connections to the *Catechism* in This Lesson

CCC 751–752, 760–766, 783–786, 873

Lesson 9 at a Glance, continued



Vocabulary Your Students Will Learn

- **Ecclesia** is the Latin form of the Greek *Ekklesia*, which means, “to call out of,” or “assembly.” *Ekklesia* was used in the Greek translation of the Old Testament to describe the gathering of the People of God and came to be used by the earliest Christians to describe themselves. It is the original word for *church*.
- **Qahal** is Hebrew for “assembly,” or “congregation.” It is one of the first words used in the Old Testament to describe the People of God whom He had called out or assembled in His name.
- The **Church** is the mystical Body of Christ and the People of God, the community of disciples founded by Jesus that will exist until the end of time.
- The **Church Militant** is those members of the Church still working out their salvation by waging the battle against sin here on earth.
- The **Church Suffering** is those members of the Church undergoing purification in Purgatory before their entry into Heaven.
- The **Church Triumphant** is those members of the Church who enjoy the Beatific Vision in Heaven.
- A **priest** offers sacrifice on behalf of others and leads them in worship of God. Just as they maintained the tabernacle in the Old Testament, priests guard and protect the presence of the Lord and serve Him faithfully. “Priest” is one of the original roles God gave to Adam in the Garden of Eden.
- A **prophet** is someone who speaks for God. “Prophet” is one of the original roles God gave to Adam in the Garden of Eden.
- A **king** rules over his kingdom and its subjects. “King” is one of the original roles God gave to Adam in the Garden of Eden.
- **Liturgy** is the public worship of the Church. It is the participation of the People of God in the Paschal Mystery of Christ, by which He accomplished our salvation. The Mass is the primary and greatest example of the Church’s liturgy.
- **Doctrine** is the revealed teachings of Christ proclaimed by the authority of the Church. The faithful are obligated to believe in the divinely revealed truths of our Faith.
- The **hierarchy** of the Church is the visible leadership structure of the Church: the pope, bishops, priests, and deacons who are all united by faith, love, and the unity of Christ in the Sacraments.



Key Scripture Passages

I will make you fertile and multiply you and make you into an assembly of peoples, and I will give this land to your descendants after you as a permanent possession.

—*Genesis 48:4*

Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

—*John 14:6*



Prayer for This Lesson

(Lead your students each day in the following prayer.)

Glory be to the Father
and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning
is now, and ever shall be
world without end. Amen.

Day 1

Warm-Up

- A.** Have your students take turns interviewing a partner about an event from their life that they believe has affected how they think, feel, or act now. Have your students ask the following questions and take notes on their own paper:
 - What is the event?
 - What about the event affected you? How?
 - How do you remember the event today?
 - What did you learn from this event?
- B.** After a sufficient time for the interviews, ask your students to tell their partners whether they would mind if their partners share with the class what they learned in the interview. Then call on students to share briefly about their partner's key event, focusing specifically on what the event was and how it affected him or her.
- C.** After sharing the interviews, ask your students why we study history. *Accept reasoned answers.*
- D.** Explain to your students that studying history is important for three reasons. First, memory of history gives us an understanding of who we are, a sense of our identity — as individuals, as families, as communities, and as people and nations. Second, having a sense of our history enables us to discover why we have certain traits and reactions — why we are the way we are! Again, this is true for individual persons all the way up to entire peoples and nations. And third, knowing our history can help us make better choices for the future. Studying Church history is no different. When we study the history of the Church, we learn who we are as Christians and gain a stronger sense of our identity as the people of God. When we study the history of the Church, we discover why we do things the way we do them as Christians, why we believe the things we believe, why we are structured and organized in the way we are, and why we relate to other groups and individuals in the way we do. And when we study the history of the Church, we inform ourselves so that together as one people of God we can forge a path into the future that builds on the successes, wisdom, and traditions of the past.

Activity

- A.** Write the word *Church* on the board and ask your students how they would define the Church. Call on students to share and accept reasonable answers.
- B. Project**  the following quote from St. Augustine, and have a student **read it aloud** :
-  The Church is the faithful of the whole world.
- C.** Explain to your students that the Church is far more than just a building in which we worship. The Church is all the faithful in all the world. Put another way, the Church is the communion of the faithful (those who have been or are being saved by faith in Christ). That means the Church is the communion of faithful people who are working out their salvation here on earth (the Church Militant), those faithful who have died but are in a state of purification in Purgatory and are assured of salvation (the Church Suffering), and those faithful who have died and are in Heaven with God and all the angels and saints (the Church Triumphant). In this lesson, we will learn more about what the Church is.



- D.** Have students turn to **The Church** on **pg. 88** in the Student Workbook. Have your students work individually to read about the historical roots of the Church and how the earliest Christians understood themselves to be the inheritors of God's promises throughout the Old Testament. Then have your students answer the focus questions.
- E.** When your students have completed **The Church**, review and discuss the correct answers.

Formative Assessment

Without looking at their workbooks, have your students answer the following questions on their own paper:

- What are three things you learned today about the origins of the Church?
- What are two questions you still have about the origins of the Church?
- What is one thing that surprised you about the origins of the Church?

Activity Worksheet

(page 88 in the Student Workbook)

Lesson 9 ▪ Day 1

The Church

Directions: Read about the foundations of the Church and then **answer** the focus and reflection questions.

Ecclesia. Ekklesia. Qahal. Each of these words refers in some way to the Church. The Latin word for Church is *ecclesia*, which comes from the Greek word *ekklesia*. The Greek *ekklesia* means to “call out of.” It was used in reference to the assembly of people called by God to gather in His name, in other words, the Church. The earliest Christians called themselves “church,” or *ekklesia*, because of this meaning. They understood

themselves to be the assembly of people called together by God.

Beginning in the third century BC through 132 BC, a Greek translation of the Old Testament was written, called the Septuagint. This is the translation of Scripture that Jesus would have been familiar with and quoted from. The word *ekklesia* appears many times throughout the Septuagint as a Greek translation of the Hebrew word *qahal*. *Qahal* means “assembly” or “congregation” and was often used to describe the People of God, the Chosen People whom He had called out or assembled in His name. Consider when God renews His covenant with Jacob in Genesis 48:4: “I will make you fertile and multiply you and make you into an assembly of peoples, and I will give this land to your descendants after you as a permanent possession.” Or consider Moses and Aaron’s leadership of the Israelites: “But Moses and Aaron fell prostrate before the whole assembled community of the Israelites” (Numbers 14:5). In both cases, and countless others throughout the Septuagint, the original Hebrew word *qahal* was translated into the Greek word *ekklesia*.

Why does it matter which words were used to describe the Church and the People of God? The Hebrew word *qahal* and the Greek word *ekklesia* form the historical roots of our modern word



A Gothic Cathedral in a Medieval City by Pieter Cornelis Dommersen (19th century).

Activity Worksheet, continued
(page 89 in the Student Workbook)

Lesson 9 ▪ Day 1

Church. The earliest Christians, when using the word *Church* to describe who they were, understood themselves to be part of a long line of people whom God had called to be His Chosen People. The Church, then, was the inheritor of all of the promises God made to His assembly, His *qahal* or *ekklesia*. God planted the seeds of the Church in the very beginning of Salvation History, and, like any good gardener, he nurtured and formed those seeds until they grew into the Church, which He intended to build all along.

In Matthew 16:15–18, Jesus asks His disciples, “Who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter replies, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” Jesus replies, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father.” Then Jesus

tells Simon Peter, “You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church.” The word Jesus uses for church is *ekklesia*. Jesus established the Catholic Church during His earthly life, not as a wholly new institution, but as the fulfillment of the assembly of God’s People whom He had prepared from the earliest days of Salvation History. The Church is both the means and the goal of His plan. The Church, as Christ Himself has told us, is the assembly, the People of God, those whom He calls to be His. As you have learned, the Church is the Body of Christ. All salvation comes from Christ, the Head, through the Church, which is His Body. For more than 2,000 years, the Church that Jesus founded has continued to gather in His name, to worship, and to be the People of God.

- 1 What does the Latin word *ecclesia* mean?
Church.
- 2 What does the Greek word *ekklesia* mean?
To “call out of.”
- 3 How are the words *ecclesia* and *ekklesia* related?
Ecclesia is the Latin translation of the Greek word ekklesia.
- 4 What did the earliest Christians call themselves and why?
They called themselves “church” or ekklesia because they understand themselves to be the assembly of people called together by God.
- 5 What is the Septuagint? What is Jesus’ relationship to the Septuagint?
It is the Greek translation of the Old Testament. It is the translation of the Old Testament that Jesus would have been familiar with and quoted from.

Activity Worksheet, continued
(page 90 in the Student Workbook)

Lesson 9 ▪ Day 1

- 6 What does the Hebrew word *qahal* mean? How is this word translated in the Greek Septuagint? Whom was it used to describe?

Qahal means “assembly” or “congregation.” It was translated into Greek as *ekklesia*. It was used to describe the People of God, the chosen people whom He had called out or assembled in His name.

- 7 What two words form the historical roots of our modern word *Church*?

Qahal and *ekklesia*.

- 8 What did the earliest Christians understand themselves to be when they called themselves “the Church”?

Part of a long line of people whom God has called to be His Chosen People.

- 9 What was the Church the inheritor of?

All of the promises God made to His assembly throughout the Old Testament.

- 10 What did Jesus tell Peter He would build upon him? What word did Jesus use for this?

Jesus told Peter He would build His Church upon Him. The word He used is *ekklesia*.

- 11 What did Jesus establish during His earthly life?

The Catholic Church.

- 12 Why is the Church not a wholly new institution?

The Church is the fulfillment of the assembly of God’s people whom God had prepared from the earliest days of Salvation History.

Day 2

Warm-Up

- A.** Ask your students to think about the following: What makes you you? In other words, what features or aspects of you make you who and what you are?
- B.** Then give your students a few minutes to write on their own paper about three things that make them who they are. In other words, have them write about three things without which they would not be who they are.
- C.** After a few minutes of writing, have your students take turns sharing and discussing with a partner their list of personal features or aspects.
- D.** Call on a few students to share with the class their list.

Activity

- A.** Ask your students what Jesus' mission was. *The salvation of all souls.*
- B.** Explain to your students that Jesus accomplished His mission by His threefold office, or role, as priest, prophet, and king.
- C. Project**  John 14:6, and have a student stand and **read it aloud** :
 Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father
| except through me."
- D.** Ask your students what Jesus said that He was. *The way, the truth, and the life.*
- E.** Explain that when Jesus said that He is the way, the truth, and the life, He was saying that He is priest, prophet, and king.



- F.** Have students turn to **Priest, Prophet, and King** on **pg. 91** in the Student Workbook. Have your students, working individually, read about the roles of priest, prophet, and king as they applied to Adam at the beginning of Creation to help them understand how Jesus is priest, prophet, and king. Then, have them answer the focus questions in complete sentences.
- G.** When your students have completed the worksheet, review and discuss the correct answers.

Activity Worksheet

(page 91 in the Student Workbook)

Priest, Prophet, and King

Directions: Read about the roles of priest, prophet, and king as they applied to Adam at the beginning of Creation to help you understand how Jesus is priest, prophet, and king. Then **answer** the focus questions in complete sentences.

In the beginning, God gave Adam three roles: priest, prophet, and king. But, because of sin, these roles became distorted and Adam failed to fulfill them. It was necessary for God to save mankind from sin and restore him to the roles he was created to have. In His plan for salvation, God sent His only Son to become one of us. At once fully God and fully man, Jesus Christ fulfilled the roles of priest, prophet, and king and made it possible for us to participate once again in these roles.

Priest

In ancient times, the most important job of a priest was to offer sacrifice to God on behalf of the people. The sacrifices that a priest offered were meant to ensure the life of the people. God gave Adam the job of being the mediator between all of Creation and God. Adam was to offer all of Creation back to God in thanksgiving for all He had made. This made him the first priest.

Prophet

The prophets spoke on God's behalf. They communicated the message of repentance and salvation and told the world of God's love. God gave Adam the task of naming all of the animals. This means that Adam spoke for God and was meant to communicate God's love to the world. This made Adam the first prophet.



Christ with Singing Angels by Hans Memling (ca. 1480).

King

Kings have dominion over their land and all of their subjects. *Dominion* means power or authority. A good king governs by creating laws, enforcing those laws, and judging his subjects based on those laws so that his kingdom and everyone in it can be the best they can be. Adam was given dominion over all of God's creation. This means he was given power and authority over all that God made. He was meant to govern all of creation according to the law of God. This made Adam the first king.

Christ's Threefold Office

In John 14:6 Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father

Activity Worksheet, continued (page 92 in the Student Workbook)

Lesson 9 ▪ Day 2

except through me.” By this statement, we can understand Jesus to be saying that He is priest, prophet, and king. Each role Jesus claimed directly corresponds to one of the original roles of Adam!

Threefold Office of Christ	
The Way	King
The Truth	Prophet
The Life	Priest

When Jesus says that He is “the way,” He is claiming the role of king for Himself. Although Jesus’ Kingdom is not an earthly kingdom, He began the reign of His Kingdom during His earthly life by teaching the law of God by which all will be judged. Jesus summarized the Ten Commandments by teaching that we must love God above all else and love our neighbor as ourselves. He also deepened the meaning of the Ten Commandments by giving the Beatitudes, teaching us how to be happy or fulfilled in the Kingdom of God. And He gave us the Works of Mercy as ways to live out the Law of God in His Kingdom.

When Jesus says that He is “the truth,” He is claiming the role of prophet for Himself. As



Christ among the Pharisees by Jacob Jordaens
(between 1660 and 1670).

prophet, Jesus spoke not only for God, but as God, communicating to us saving truth.

When Jesus says that He is “the life,” He is claiming the role of priest for Himself. This is the culmination of Jesus’ entire ministry. Jesus offered Himself on the Cross as a sacrifice for the sins of all. Christ’s priestly office restores us to an intimate relationship with the Father and brings about supernatural grace so we can live charitably and recognize truth. Most importantly, Jesus’ death and Resurrection have brought about our salvation and eternal life.

- 1 What three roles did God give to Adam in the beginning?

Priest, prophet, and king.

- 2 What is the most important job of a priest? What was this meant to do?

To offer sacrifice to God on behalf of the people. This was meant to ensure the life of the people.

- 3 How was Adam the first priest?

He was meant to offer all of Creation back to God in thanksgiving.

Activity Worksheet, *continued*
(page 93 in the Student Workbook)

- 4 What does a prophet do?
He speaks on God's behalf.
- 5 What message do prophets communicate and teach?
Repentance, salvation, and God's love, as well as teaching about God and His law.
- 6 How was Adam the first prophet?
He spoke for God when he named all of the animals, and he was meant to communicate God's love to the world.
- 7 What does it mean for a king to have dominion?
To have power and authority over his kingdom and subjects.
- 8 How does a king govern?
By creating the laws of his kingdom, enforcing the laws, and judging his subjects based on those laws.
- 9 How was Adam the first king?
God gave him dominion over all of Creation, and he was meant to rule as a good king and govern according to the law of God.
- 10 When Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life," what can we understand Him to be saying?
He is priest, prophet, and king.
- 11 What role of Adam does Jesus claim when He says that He is "the way"? How does Jesus fulfill this role?
King. He began the reign of His Kingdom during His earthly life by teaching the law of God by which all will be judged. Jesus summarized the Ten Commandments by teaching that we must love God above all else and love our neighbor as ourselves. He also deepened the meaning of the Ten Commandments by giving us the Beatitudes, teaching us how to be happy or fulfilled in the Kingdom of God. And He gave us the works of mercy as ways to live out the Law of God in His Kingdom.

Activity Worksheet, continued
(page 94 in the Student Workbook)

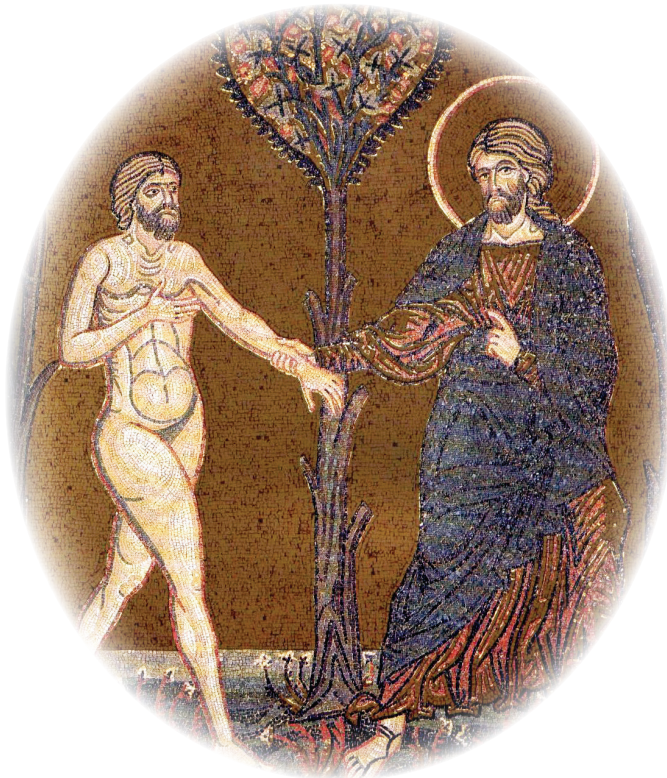
Lesson 9 ▪ Day 2

- 12** What role of Adam does Jesus claim when He says that He is “the truth”? How does Jesus fulfill this role?

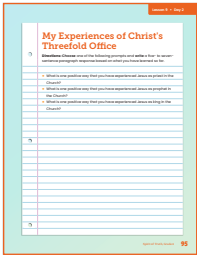
Prophet. He spoke not only for God, but as God, communicating to us saving truth. Jesus taught His disciples about God, about how to live righteously and faithfully, and about how to love God and neighbor.

- 13** What role of Adam does Jesus claim when He says that He is “the life”? How does Jesus fulfill this role?

Priest. Jesus offered Himself on the Cross as a sacrifice for the sins of all. Christ’s priestly office restores us to an intimate relationship with the Father and brings about supernatural grace so we can live charitably and recognize truth. Most importantly, Jesus’ death and Resurrection have brought about our salvation and eternal life.



DAY 2 > Formative Assessment



- A. Have your students turn to **My Experiences of Christ's Threefold Office** on **pg. 95** in the Student Workbook and write a five- to seven-sentence paragraph in response to a prompt of their choice.
- B. Call on one or two volunteers to share and discuss their answers with the class.

Formative Assessment
Worksheet
(page 95 in the Student
Workbook)

Answer Key
Accept reasoned answers.

Lesson 9 ▪ Day 2

My Experiences of Christ's Threefold Office

Directions: Choose one of the following prompts and **write** a five- to seven-sentence paragraph response based on what you have learned so far.

- What is one positive way that you have experienced Jesus as priest in the Church?
- What is one positive way that you have experienced Jesus as prophet in the Church?
- What is one positive way that you have experienced Jesus as king in the Church?

Spirit of Truth, Grade 8 95

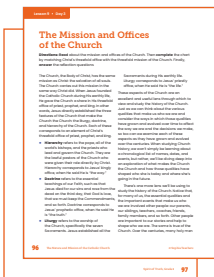
Day 3

Warm-Up

Ask your students the following questions:

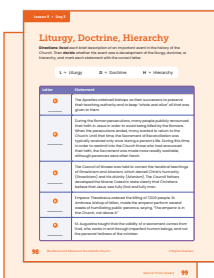
- How did we define the Church a few lessons ago? *“The Church is the faithful of the whole world,” or the communion of the faithful.*
- What did Jesus say that He was in John 14:6? *“The way and the truth and the life.”*
- What do we understand Jesus to be saying when He says that He is “the way and the truth and the life”? *That He is priest, prophet, and king.*
- What is the mission of the Church? *The salvation of all souls.*

Activity



- A. Arrange your students into pairs or groups of three or four and have them turn to **The Mission and Offices of the Church** on **pg. 96** in the Student Workbook. Have each group read the text together then answer the questions and fill in the chart.
- B. When they are finished, review and discuss the answers as a class. Consider drawing or projecting on the board the chart from the worksheet and completing it together as a class.

Formative Assessment



- A. Have students turn to **Liturgy, Doctrine, Hierarchy** on **pg. 98** in the Student Workbook. Have your students, working individually or with a partner, read each brief description of important events in the history of the Church. Then have them decide whether the event was a development of liturgy, doctrine, or hierarchy, and mark each statement with the correct letter.
- B. When your students have completed **Liturgy, Doctrine, Hierarchy**, call on students to share their answers and discuss why they think so.

Activity Worksheet

(page 96 in the Student Workbook)

Lesson 9 ▪ Day 3

The Mission and Offices of the Church

Directions: Read about the mission and offices of the Church. Then **complete** the chart by matching Christ's threefold office with the threefold mission of the Church. Finally, **answer** the reflection questions

The Church, the Body of Christ, has the same mission as Christ: the salvation of all souls. The Church carries out this mission in the same way Christ did. When Jesus founded the Catholic Church during His earthly life, He gave the Church a share in His threefold office of priest, prophet, and king. In other words, Jesus directly established the three features of the Church that make the Church the Church: the liturgy, doctrine, and hierarchy of the Church. Each of these corresponds to an element of Christ's threefold office of priest, prophet, and king.

- **Hierarchy** refers to the pope, all of the world's bishops, and the priests who lead and govern the Church. They are the lawful pastors of the Church who were given their role directly by Christ. Hierarchy corresponds to Jesus' kingly office, when He said He is "the way."
- **Doctrine** refers to the essential teachings of our Faith, such as that Jesus died for our sins and rose from the dead on the third day, that God is love, that we must keep the Commandments, and so forth. Doctrine corresponds to Jesus' prophetic office, when He said He is "the truth."
- **Liturgy** refers to the worship of the Church, specifically the seven Sacraments. Jesus established all the

Sacraments during His earthly life.

Liturgy corresponds to Jesus' priestly office, when He said He is "the life."

These aspects of the Church are an excellent and useful lens through which to view and study the history of the Church. Just as we can think about the various qualities that make us who we are and consider the ways in which those qualities have grown and evolved over time to affect the way we are and the decisions we make, so too can we examine each of these aspects as they have grown and evolved over the centuries. When studying Church history, we won't simply be learning about a chronological list of names, dates, and events, but rather, we'll be diving deep into an exploration of what makes the Church the Church and how those qualities have shaped who she is today and where she's going in the future.

There's one more lens we'll be using to study the history of the Church. Notice that, for many of us, the essential qualities and the important events that make us who we are involved other people: our parents, our siblings, teachers, coaches, friends, family members, and so forth. Other people are important to our stories and help to shape who we are. The same is true of the Church. Over the centuries, many holy men

Activity Worksheet, continued
(page 97 in the Student Workbook)

Lesson 9 ▪ Day 3

and women have had a great impact on the liturgy, doctrine, and hierarchy of the Church. Not only can we study the history of the Church through the development

of these aspects, but we can study the history of the Church through the stories of the saints and their great love for God, for others, and for the Church.

Threefold Office of Christ		Threefold Mission of the Church
The Way	King	Hierarchy
The Truth	Prophet	Doctrine
The Life	Priest	Liturgy

- 1 What experiences have you had with the hierarchy of the Church? How has your bishop and the priest at your parish or another you've met given witness to Christ?

Accept reasoned answers.

- 2 What teaching of the Church have you learned this year that you didn't know before or that you now have a deeper understanding of? How does this teaching help you appreciate the Church more?

Accept reasoned answers.

- 3 What is your greatest experience of the Sacraments or the Mass? How did this experience give witness to Christ?

Accept reasoned answers.

Formative Assessment Worksheet*(page 98 in the Student Workbook)*

Lesson 9 ▪ Day 3

Liturgy, Doctrine, Hierarchy

Directions: Read each brief description of an important event in the history of the Church. Then **decide** whether the event was a development of the liturgy, doctrine, or hierarchy, and mark each statement with the correct letter.

L = Liturgy

D = Doctrine

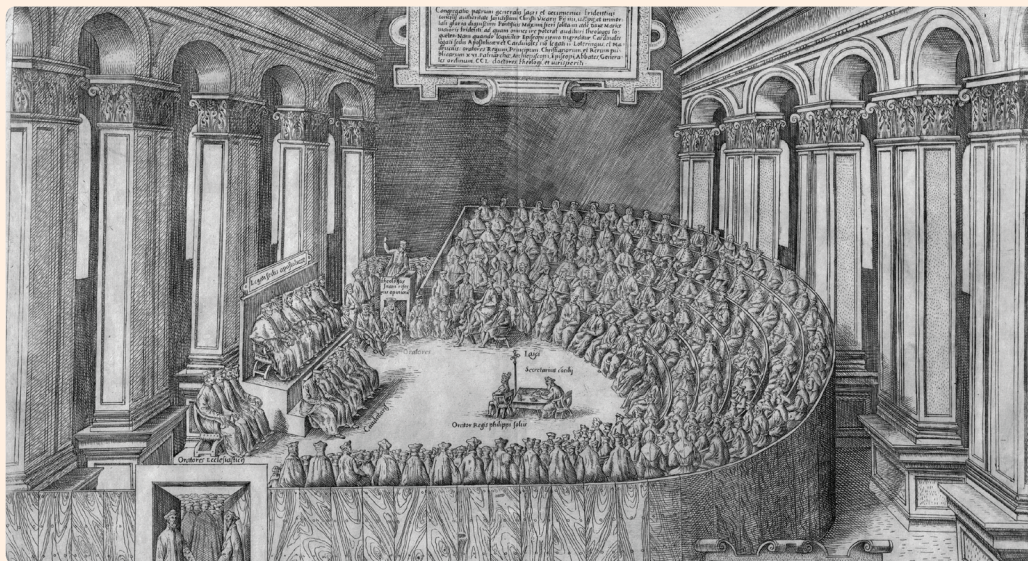
H = Hierarchy

Letter	Statement
1 <u> H </u>	The Apostles ordained bishops as their successors to preserve their teaching authority and to keep “whole and alive” all that was given to them.
2 <u> L </u>	During the Roman persecutions, many people publicly renounced their faith in Jesus in order to avoid being killed by the Romans. When the persecutions ended, many wanted to return to the Church. Until that time, the Sacrament of Reconciliation was typically received only once during a person’s life. During this time, in order to readmit into the Church those who had renounced their faith, the Sacrament was made more readily available, although penances were often harsh.
3 <u> D </u>	The Council of Nicaea was held to correct the heretical teachings of Gnosticism and Arianism, which denied Christ’s humanity (Gnosticism) and His divinity (Arianism). The Council fathers developed the Nicene Creed to state clearly that Christians believe that Jesus was fully God and fully man.
4 <u> H </u>	Emperor Theodosius ordered the killing of 7,000 people. St. Ambrose, bishop of Milan, made the emperor perform several weeks of humiliating public penance, saying, “The emperor is in the Church, not above it.”
5 <u> D </u>	St. Augustine taught that the validity of a sacrament comes from God, who works in and through imperfect human beings, and not the personal holiness of the minister.

Formative Assessment Worksheet, continued
(page 99 in the Student Workbook)

Lesson 9 ▪ Day 3

Letter	Statement
<u>6</u> <u>D</u>	St. Augustine taught that, as a result of Original Sin, human beings have concupiscence, or a tendency to sin. We are powerless alone to overcome this tendency and must cooperate with God's grace in order to achieve Heaven.
<u>7</u> <u>H</u>	The Council of Chalcedon dogmatically declared that the bishop of Rome had preeminence over all other bishops.
<u>8</u> <u>L</u>	Sts. Cyril and Methodius said Mass in the common language of Eastern Europe, Slavic, in order to evangelize the people there.
<u>9</u> <u>H</u>	Pope Gregory VII established the College of Cardinals, made up of bishops who would elect the new pope by a two-thirds majority vote.
<u>10</u> <u>L</u>	The Council of Trent standardized the prayers and rituals of the Mass.



Speculum Romanae Magnificentiae: Council of Trent by Claude Duchet (1565).

The Nature and Mission of the Catholic Church

LESSON OVERVIEW



Vocabulary

- **Ecclesia** is the Latin form of the Greek *Ekklesia*, which means, "to call out of," or "assembly." *Ekklesia* was used in the Greek translation of the Old Testament to describe the gathering of the People of God and came to be used by the earliest Christians to describe themselves. It is the original word for *church*.
- **Qahal** is Hebrew for "assembly," or "congregation." It is one of the first words used in the Old Testament to describe the People of God whom He had called out or assembled in His name.
- The **Church** is the mystical Body of Christ and the People of God, the community of disciples founded by Jesus that will exist until the end of time.
- The **Church Militant** is those members of the Church still working out their salvation by waging the battle against sin here on earth.
- The **Church Suffering** is those members of the Church undergoing purification in Purgatory before their entry into Heaven.
- The **Church Triumphant** is those members of the Church who enjoy the Beatific Vision in Heaven.
- A **priest** offers sacrifice on behalf of others and leads them in worship of God. Just as they maintained the tabernacle in the Old Testament, priests guard and protect the presence of the Lord and serve Him faithfully. "Priest" is one of the original roles God gave to Adam in the Garden of Eden.
- A **prophet** is someone who speaks for God. "Prophet" is one of the original roles God gave to Adam in the Garden of Eden.

(continued on the next page)

LESSON 9

OVERVIEW

(continued)



Vocabulary *(continued)*

- A **king** rules over his kingdom and its subjects. “King” is one of the original roles God gave to Adam in the Garden of Eden.
- **Liturgy** is the public worship of the Church. It is the participation of the People of God in the Paschal Mystery of Christ, by which He accomplished our salvation. The Mass is the primary and greatest example of the Church's liturgy.
- **Doctrine** is the revealed teachings of Christ proclaimed by the authority of the Church. The faithful are obligated to believe in the divinely revealed truths of our Faith.
- The **hierarchy** of the Church is the visible leadership structure of the Church: the pope, bishops, priests, and deacons who are all united by faith, love, and the unity of Christ in the Sacraments.



Prayer for This Lesson

Glory be to the Father
and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning
is now, and ever shall be
world without end. Amen.

The Church

Directions: Read about the foundations of the Church and then **answer** the focus and reflection questions.

Ecclesia. Ekklesia. Qahal. Each of these words refers in some way to the Church. The Latin word for Church is *ecclesia*, which comes from the Greek word *ekklesia*. The Greek *ekklesia* means to “call out of.” It was used in reference to the assembly of people called by God to gather in His name, in other words, the Church. The earliest Christians called themselves “church,” or *ekklesia*, because of this meaning. They understood

themselves to be the assembly of people called together by God.

Beginning in the third century BC through 132 BC, a Greek translation of the Old Testament was written, called the Septuagint. This is the translation of Scripture that Jesus would have been familiar with and quoted from. The word *ekklesia* appears many times throughout the Septuagint as a Greek translation of the Hebrew word *qahal*. *Qahal* means “assembly” or “congregation” and was often used to describe the People of God, the Chosen People whom He had called out or assembled in His name. Consider when God renews His covenant with Jacob in Genesis 48:4: “I will make you fertile and multiply you and make you into an assembly of peoples, and I will give this land to your descendants after you as a permanent possession.” Or consider Moses and Aaron’s leadership of the Israelites: “But Moses and Aaron fell prostrate before the whole assembled community of the Israelites” (Numbers 14:5). In both cases, and countless others throughout the Septuagint, the original Hebrew word *qahal* was translated into the Greek word *ekklesia*.

Why does it matter which words were used to describe the Church and the People of God? The Hebrew word *qahal* and the Greek word *ekklesia* form the historical roots of our modern word



A Gothic Cathedral in a Medieval City by Pieter Cornelis Dommersen (19th century).

Church. The earliest Christians, when using the word *Church* to describe who they were, understood themselves to be part of a long line of people whom God had called to be His Chosen People. The Church, then, was the inheritor of all of the promises God made to His assembly, His *qahal* or *ekklesia*. God planted the seeds of the Church in the very beginning of Salvation History, and, like any good gardener, he nurtured and formed those seeds until they grew into the Church, which He intended to build all along.

In Matthew 16:15–18, Jesus asks His disciples, “Who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter replies, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” Jesus replies, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father.” Then Jesus

tells Simon Peter, “You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church.” The word Jesus uses for church is *ekklesia*. Jesus established the Catholic Church during His earthly life, not as a wholly new institution, but as the fulfillment of the assembly of God’s People whom He had prepared from the earliest days of Salvation History. The Church is both the means and the goal of His plan. The Church, as Christ Himself has told us, is the assembly, the People of God, those whom He calls to be His. As you have learned, the Church is the Body of Christ. All salvation comes from Christ, the Head, through the Church, which is His Body. For more than 2,000 years, the Church that Jesus founded has continued to gather in His name, to worship, and to be the People of God.

1 What does the Latin word *ecclesia* mean?

2 What does the Greek word *ekklesia* mean?

3 How are the words *ecclesia* and *ekklesia* related?

4 What did the earliest Christians call themselves and why?

5 What is the Septuagint? What is Jesus’ relationship to the Septuagint?

- 6 What does the Hebrew word *qahal* mean? How is this word translated in the Greek Septuagint? Whom was it used to describe?

- 7 What two words form the historical roots of our modern word *Church*?

- 8 What did the earliest Christians understand themselves to be when they called themselves "the Church"?

- 9 What was the Church the inheritor of?

- 10 What did Jesus tell Peter He would build upon him? What word did Jesus use for this?

- 11 What did Jesus establish during His earthly life?

- 12 Why is the Church not a wholly new institution?

Priest, Prophet, and King

Directions: Read about the roles of priest, prophet, and king as they applied to Adam at the beginning of Creation to help you understand how Jesus is priest, prophet, and king. Then **answer** the focus questions in complete sentences.

In the beginning, God gave Adam three roles: priest, prophet, and king. But, because of sin, these roles became distorted and Adam failed to fulfill them. It was necessary for God to save mankind from sin and restore him to the roles he was created to have. In His plan for salvation, God sent His only Son to become one of us. At once fully God and fully man, Jesus Christ fulfilled the roles of priest, prophet, and king and made it possible for us to participate once again in these roles.

Priest

In ancient times, the most important job of a priest was to offer sacrifice to God on behalf of the people. The sacrifices that a priest offered were meant to ensure the life of the people. God gave Adam the job of being the mediator between all of Creation and God. Adam was to offer all of Creation back to God in thanksgiving for all He had made. This made him the first priest.

Prophet

The prophets spoke on God's behalf. They communicated the message of repentance and salvation and told the world of God's love. God gave Adam the task of naming all of the animals. This means that Adam spoke for God and was meant to communicate God's love to the world. This made Adam the first prophet.



Christ with Singing Angels by Hans Memling (ca. 1480).

King

Kings have dominion over their land and all of their subjects. *Dominion* means power or authority. A good king governs by creating laws, enforcing those laws, and judging his subjects based on those laws so that his kingdom and everyone in it can be the best they can be. Adam was given dominion over all of God's creation. This means he was given power and authority over all that God made. He was meant to govern all of creation according to the law of God. This made Adam the first king.

Christ's Threefold Office

In John 14:6 Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father

except through me.” By this statement, we can understand Jesus to be saying that He is priest, prophet, and king. Each role Jesus claimed directly corresponds to one of the original roles of Adam!

Threefold Office of Christ

The Way	King
The Truth	Prophet
The Life	Priest

When Jesus says that He is “the way,” He is claiming the role of king for Himself. Although Jesus’ Kingdom is not an earthly kingdom, He began the reign of His Kingdom during His earthly life by teaching the law of God by which all will be judged. Jesus summarized the Ten Commandments by teaching that we must love God above all else and love our neighbor as ourselves. He also deepened the meaning of the Ten Commandments by giving the Beatitudes, teaching us how to be happy or fulfilled in the Kingdom of God. And He gave us the Works of Mercy as ways to live out the Law of God in His Kingdom.

When Jesus says that He is “the truth,” He is claiming the role of prophet for Himself. As



Christ among the Pharisees by Jacob Jordaens (between 1660 and 1670).

prophet, Jesus spoke not only for God, but as God, communicating to us saving truth.

When Jesus says that He is “the life,” He is claiming the role of priest for Himself. This is the culmination of Jesus’ entire ministry. Jesus offered Himself on the Cross as a sacrifice for the sins of all. Christ’s priestly office restores us to an intimate relationship with the Father and brings about supernatural grace so we can live charitably and recognize truth. Most importantly, Jesus’ death and Resurrection have brought about our salvation and eternal life.

1 What three roles did God give to Adam in the beginning?

2 What is the most important job of a priest? What was this meant to do?

3 How was Adam the first priest?

4 What does a prophet do?

5 What message do prophets communicate and teach?

6 How was Adam the first prophet?

7 What does it mean for a king to have dominion?

8 How does a king govern?

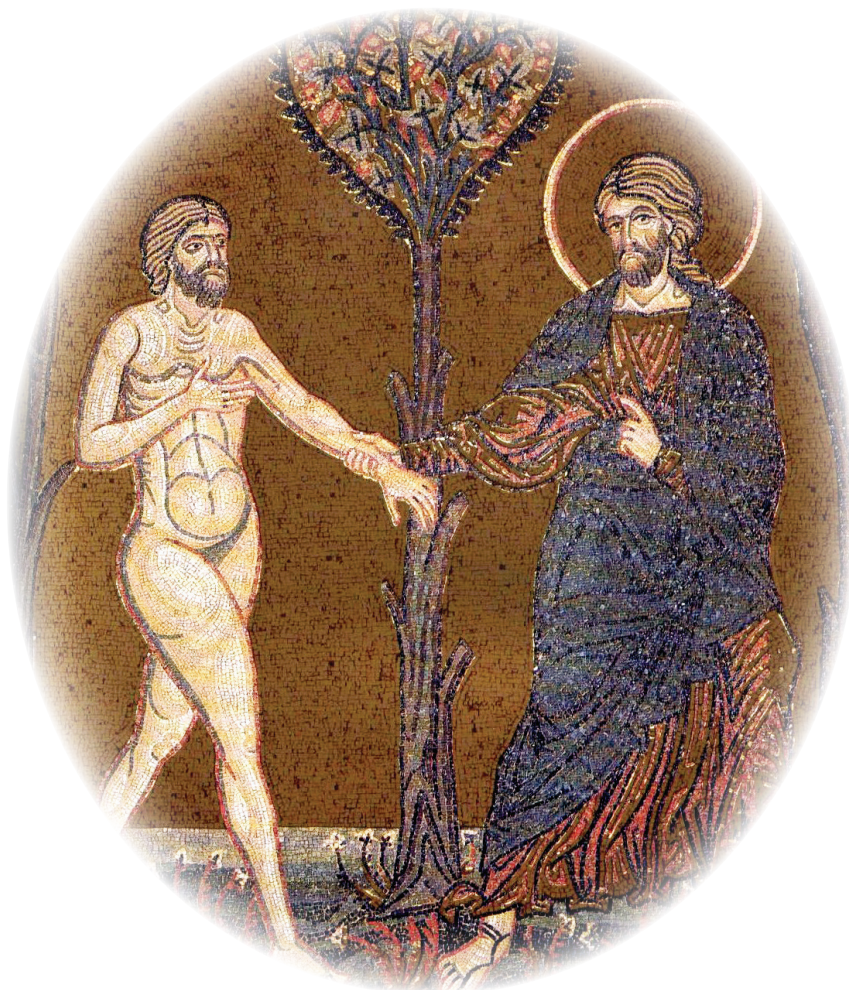
9 How was Adam the first king?

10 When Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life," what can we understand Him to be saying?

11 What role of Adam does Jesus claim when He says that He is "the way"? How does Jesus fulfill this role?

- 12 What role of Adam does Jesus claim when He says that He is “the truth”? How does Jesus fulfill this role?

- 13 What role of Adam does Jesus claim when He says that He is “the life”? How does Jesus fulfill this role?



My Experiences of Christ's Threefold Office

Directions: Choose one of the following prompts and **write** a five- to seven-sentence paragraph response based on what you have learned so far.

- What is one positive way that you have experienced Jesus as priest in the Church?
- What is one positive way that you have experienced Jesus as prophet in the Church?
- What is one positive way that you have experienced Jesus as king in the Church?

The Mission and Offices of the Church

Directions: Read about the mission and offices of the Church. Then **complete** the chart by matching Christ's threefold office with the threefold mission of the Church. Finally, **answer** the reflection questions

The Church, the Body of Christ, has the same mission as Christ: the salvation of all souls. The Church carries out this mission in the same way Christ did. When Jesus founded the Catholic Church during His earthly life, He gave the Church a share in His threefold office of priest, prophet, and king. In other words, Jesus directly established the three features of the Church that make the Church the Church: the liturgy, doctrine, and hierarchy of the Church. Each of these corresponds to an element of Christ's threefold office of priest, prophet, and king.

- **Hierarchy** refers to the pope, all of the world's bishops, and the priests who lead and govern the Church. They are the lawful pastors of the Church who were given their role directly by Christ. Hierarchy corresponds to Jesus' kingly office, when He said He is "the way."
- **Doctrine** refers to the essential teachings of our Faith, such as that Jesus died for our sins and rose from the dead on the third day, that God is love, that we must keep the Commandments, and so forth. Doctrine corresponds to Jesus' prophetic office, when He said He is "the truth."
- **Liturgy** refers to the worship of the Church, specifically the seven Sacraments. Jesus established all the

Sacraments during His earthly life. Liturgy corresponds to Jesus' priestly office, when He said He is "the life."

These aspects of the Church are an excellent and useful lens through which to view and study the history of the Church. Just as we can think about the various qualities that make us who we are and consider the ways in which those qualities have grown and evolved over time to affect the way we are and the decisions we make, so too can we examine each of these aspects as they have grown and evolved over the centuries. When studying Church history, we won't simply be learning about a chronological list of names, dates, and events, but rather, we'll be diving deep into an exploration of what makes the Church the Church and how those qualities have shaped who she is today and where she's going in the future.

There's one more lens we'll be using to study the history of the Church. Notice that, for many of us, the essential qualities and the important events that make us who we are involved other people: our parents, our siblings, teachers, coaches, friends, family members, and so forth. Other people are important to our stories and help to shape who we are. The same is true of the Church. Over the centuries, many holy men

and women have had a great impact on the liturgy, doctrine, and hierarchy of the Church. Not only can we study the history of the Church through the development

of these aspects, but we can study the history of the Church through the stories of the saints and their great love for God, for others, and for the Church.

Threefold Office of Christ		Threefold Mission of the Church	
The Way			
The Truth			
The Life			

- 1 What experiences have you had with the hierarchy of the Church? How has your bishop and the priest at your parish or another you've met given witness to Christ?

- 2 What teaching of the Church have you learned this year that you didn't know before or that you now have a deeper understanding of? How does this teaching help you appreciate the Church more?

- 3 What is your greatest experience of the Sacraments or the Mass? How did this experience give witness to Christ?

Liturgy, Doctrine, Hierarchy

Directions: Read each brief description of an important event in the history of the Church. Then **decide** whether the event was a development of the liturgy, doctrine, or hierarchy, and mark each statement with the correct letter.

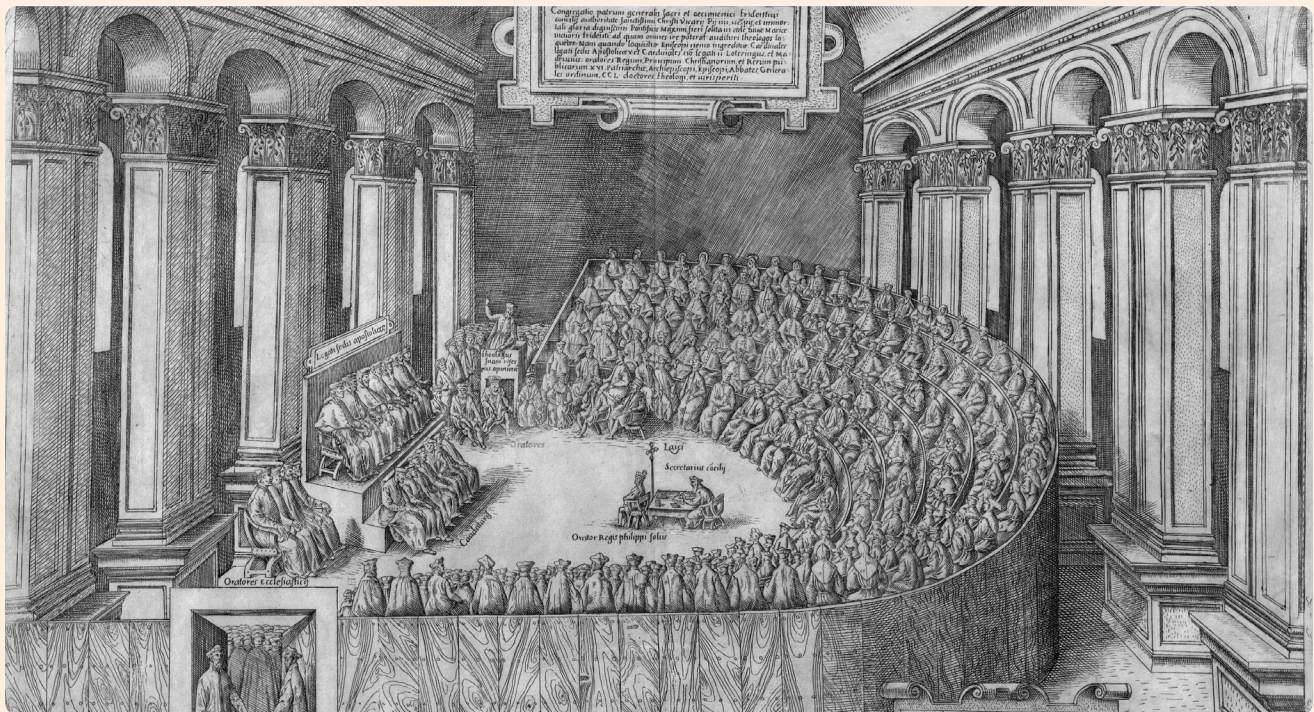
L = Liturgy

D = Doctrine

H = Hierarchy

Letter	Statement
1 _____	The Apostles ordained bishops as their successors to preserve their teaching authority and to keep “whole and alive” all that was given to them.
2 _____	During the Roman persecutions, many people publicly renounced their faith in Jesus in order to avoid being killed by the Romans. When the persecutions ended, many wanted to return to the Church. Until that time, the Sacrament of Reconciliation was typically received only once during a person’s life. During this time, in order to readmit into the Church those who had renounced their faith, the Sacrament was made more readily available, although penances were often harsh.
3 _____	The Council of Nicaea was held to correct the heretical teachings of Gnosticism and Arianism, which denied Christ’s humanity (Gnosticism) and His divinity (Arianism). The Council fathers developed the Nicene Creed to state clearly that Christians believe that Jesus was fully God and fully man.
4 _____	Emperor Theodosius ordered the killing of 7,000 people. St. Ambrose, bishop of Milan, made the emperor perform several weeks of humiliating public penance, saying, “The emperor is in the Church, not above it.”
5 _____	St. Augustine taught that the validity of a sacrament comes from God, who works in and through imperfect human beings, and not the personal holiness of the minister.

Letter	Statement
6 _____	St. Augustine taught that, as a result of Original Sin, human beings have concupiscence, or a tendency to sin. We are powerless alone to overcome this tendency and must cooperate with God's grace in order to achieve Heaven.
7 _____	The Council of Chalcedon dogmatically declared that the bishop of Rome had preeminence over all other bishops.
8 _____	Sts. Cyril and Methodius said Mass in the common language of Eastern Europe, Slavic, in order to evangelize the people there.
9 _____	Pope Gregory VII established the College of Cardinals, made up of bishops who would elect the new pope by a two-thirds majority vote.
10 _____	The Council of Trent standardized the prayers and rituals of the Mass.



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