



Segment 4 Church- Body of Christ

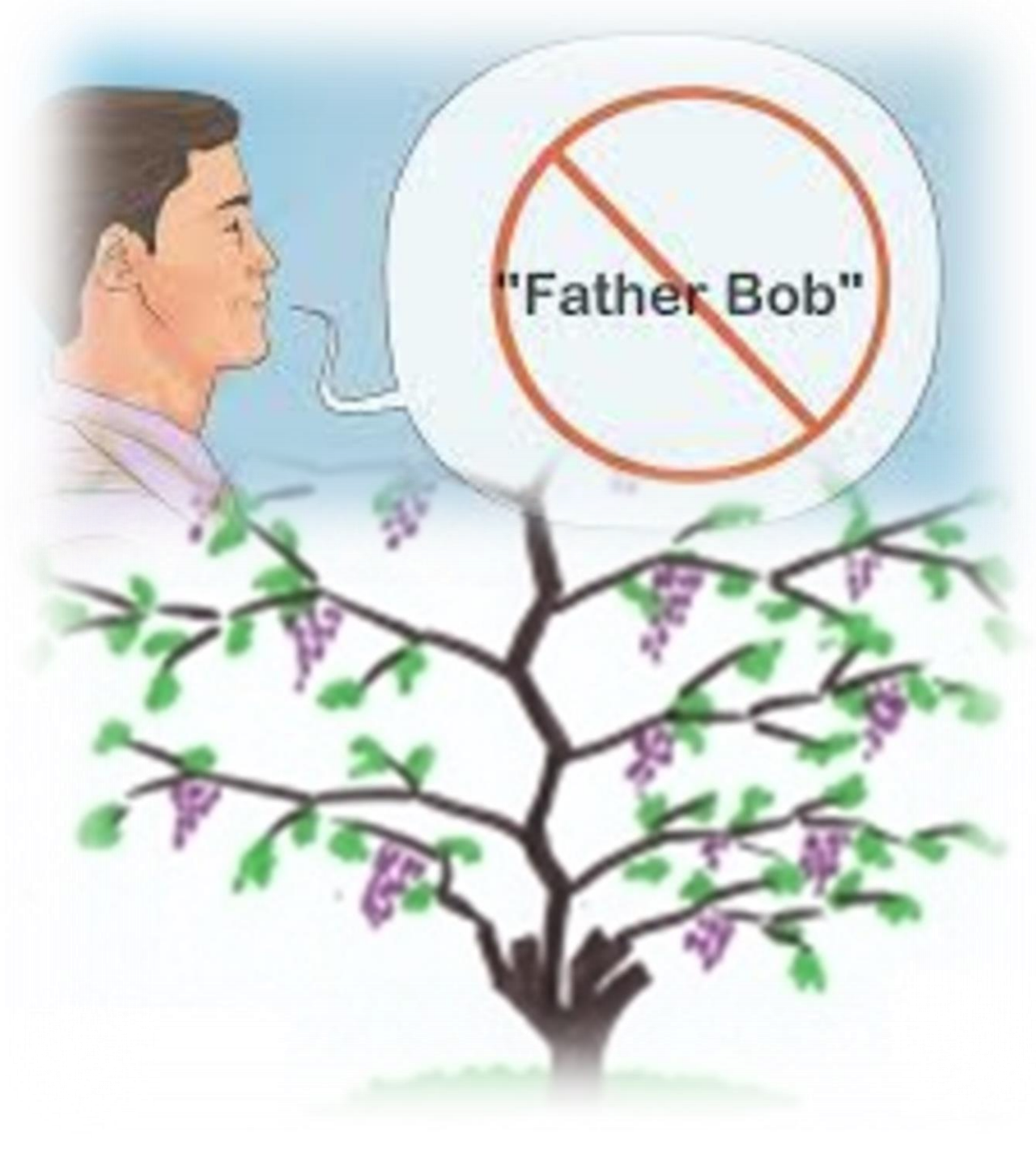
Opening Prayer

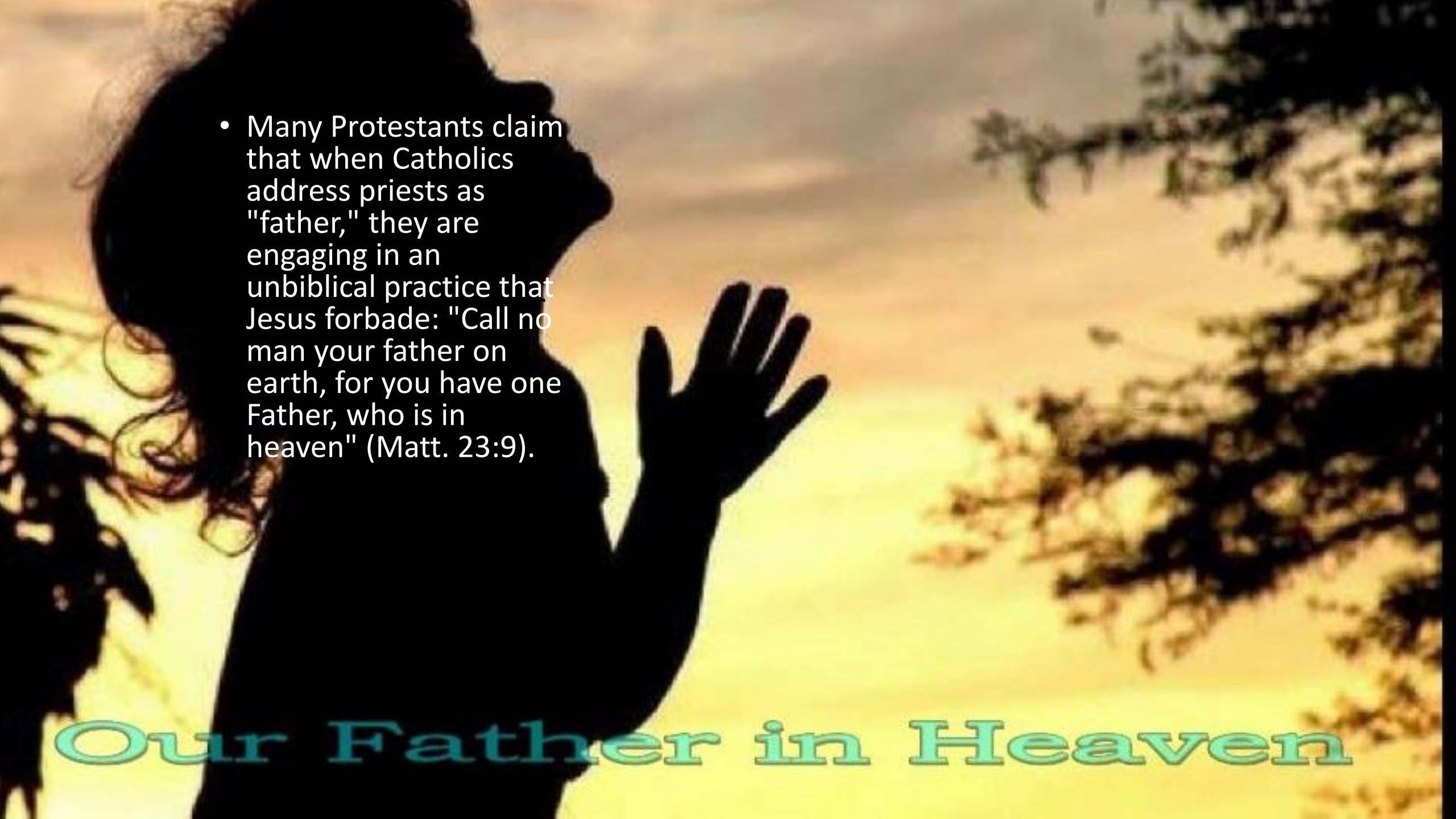
- We pray You, O almighty and eternal God!
Who through Jesus Christ hast revealed
Your glory to all nations, to preserve the works of
Your mercy, that Your Church,
being spread through the whole world, may
continue with unchanging faith in the confession
of your name. – Amen-



For Tonight

- Apologetics
 - Call no man father?
- The Church Body of Christ



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- Many Protestants claim that when Catholics address priests as "father," they are engaging in an unbiblical practice that Jesus forbade: "Call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven" (Matt. 23:9).

Our Father in Heaven

- Lets look at the entire passage
 - "But you are not to be called 'rabbi,' for you have one teacher, and you are all brethren. And call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven. Neither be called 'masters,' for you have one master, the Christ" (Matt. 23:8–10)
 - Jesus criticized Jewish leaders who love "the place of honor at feasts and the best seats in the synagogues, and salutations in the market places, and being called 'rabbi' by men" (Matt. 23:6–7). His admonition here is a response to the Pharisees' proud hearts and their grasping after marks of status and prestige.

Hyperbole



- He was using hyperbole (exaggeration to make a point) to show the scribes and Pharisees how sinful and proud they were for not looking humbly to God as the source of all authority and fatherhood and teaching, and instead setting themselves up as the ultimate authorities, father figures, and teachers.

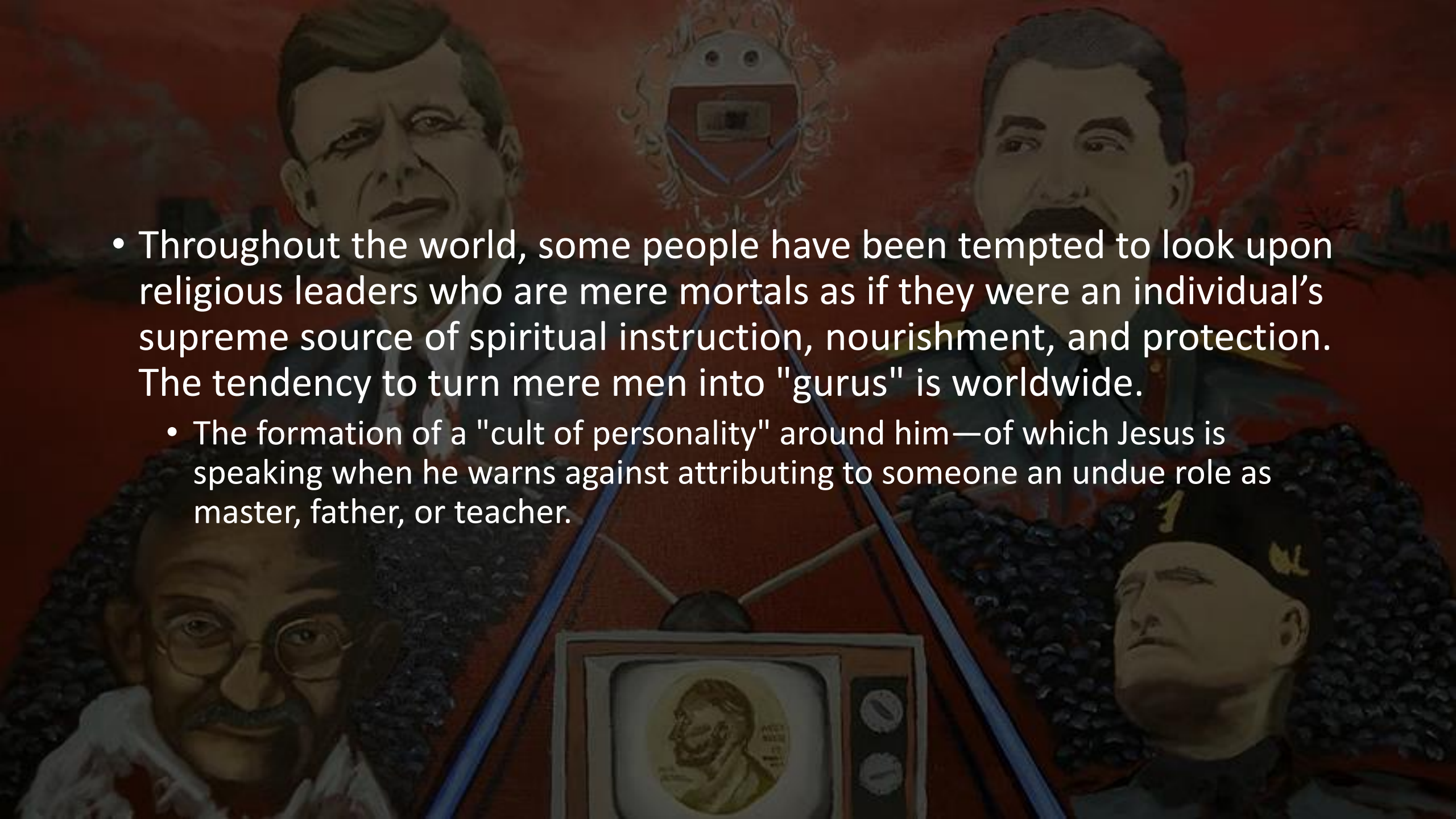


- Jesus is not forbidding us to call men "fathers" who actually are such—either literally or spiritually. To refer to such people as fathers is only to acknowledge the truth, and Jesus is not against that. He is warning people against *inaccurately* attributing fatherhood—or a particular *kind or degree* of fatherhood—to those who do not have it.

- Some individuals genuinely do have a spiritual fatherhood, meaning that they can be referred to as spiritual fathers.
- What must not be done is to confuse their form of spiritual paternity with that of God.
- Ultimately, God is our supreme protector, provider, and instructor.
 - it is wrong to view any individual other than God as having these roles.

REST IN GOD



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- Throughout the world, some people have been tempted to look upon religious leaders who are mere mortals as if they were an individual's supreme source of spiritual instruction, nourishment, and protection. The tendency to turn mere men into "gurus" is worldwide.
 - The formation of a "cult of personality" around him—of which Jesus is speaking when he warns against attributing to someone an undue role as master, father, or teacher.

Spiritual father-son, father-child relationship

- The New Testament is filled with examples of and references to spiritual father-son and father-child relationships. Many people are not aware just how common these are.
- 1 Cor. 4:17 1 Tim. 1:2 2 Tim. 1:2 1 Tim 1:18 2 Tim. 2:1
Phil. 2:22 Titus 1:4 Philem. 10

Theology of the spiritual fatherhood of priests

- "I do not write this to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. *For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel*" (1 Cor. 4:14–15)
- Continued references
 - 1 Pet. 5:13
 - 2 Cor. 12:14
 - Gal. 4:19
 - 1 John 2:1
 - 3 John 4
 - 1 John 2:13–14

Father

- Peter, Paul, and John imply their own roles as spiritual fathers.
- Since the Bible frequently speaks of this spiritual fatherhood, we Catholics acknowledge it and follow the custom of the apostles by calling priests "father."
- Failure to acknowledge this is a failure to recognize and honor a great gift God has bestowed on the Church: the spiritual fatherhood of the priesthood.

Father

- The Bible infallibly records truth that Christ's ministers do have a role as spiritual fathers. Jesus is not against acknowledging that. It is He who gave these men their role as spiritual fathers, and it is his Holy Spirit who recorded this role for us in the pages of Scripture.
- To acknowledge spiritual fatherhood is to acknowledge the truth, and no amount of anti-Catholic grumbling can change that.

For Tonight

The Church

- A Holy Mystery
- A Sacrament
- People of God/Body of Christ
- Communion
- Four Marks

A Holy Mystery (CCC 758-780) 1 Cor 11: 18-

- The Church is a holy mystery, because her origin is in the communion of the Trinity.
 - The Father called the Church into existence.
 - Christ founded the Church
 - The Holy Spirit fills the Church with power and wisdom at Pentecost and continues that
- She is “visible” and “spiritual”
 - Visible- earthly, human, ordered.
 - Spiritual- divine, heavenly community, mystical body



Sacrament (CCC 774-786)

- As a Sacrament of our Salvation, the Church is the sign and instrument of our communion and relationship with God
 - As sacrament, the Church is Christ's instrument. "She is taken up by him also as the instrument for the salvation of all," "the universal sacrament of salvation," by which Christ is "at once manifesting and actualizing the mystery of God's love for men." The Church "is the visible plan of God's love for humanity," because God desires "that the whole human race may become one People of God, form one Body of Christ, and be built up into one temple of the Holy Spirit." See *LG* 9 and 17



People of God/Body of Christ (CCC 787-801)

We become members of God's people through faith in Jesus and Baptism.

We are members with Christ at the head.

As the Temple of the Holy Spirit the Church sanctifies her members and pours out abundant gifts and charisms for building up the Church (797-801)

"I am the vine, you are the branches..."
(Jn 15: 4-5)

"...he provides in his Body, the Church, the gifts and assistance by which we help one another along the way of salvation."
(ccc794)

Communion (CCC 813...)

- The Church is a communion that begins with our union in Jesus. Through this we are given a share in the communion of the Trinity and drawn into a community of faith, hope, and love with all men and women.
 - AND THAT BRINGS US TO....



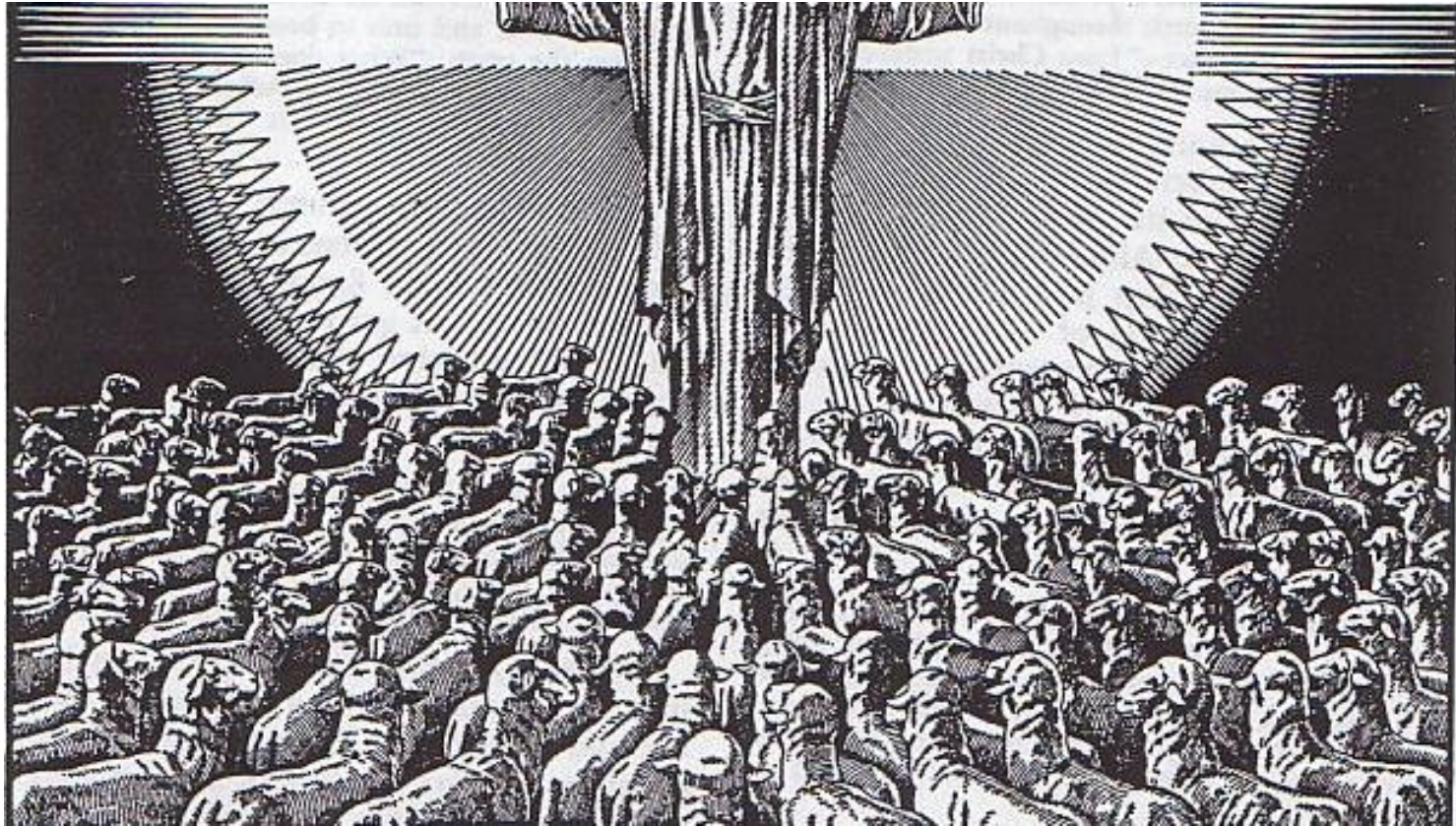
The background image shows the interior of St. Peter's Basilica, looking down the nave towards the dome. The architecture is highly detailed with classical columns and arches. Latin inscriptions are visible on the arches: "NI CALIORVM TV ES PETRVS" on the upper arch, "A FIDES" on the lower left arch, and "MYNDO" on the lower right arch. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the textures of the stone and the depth of the space.

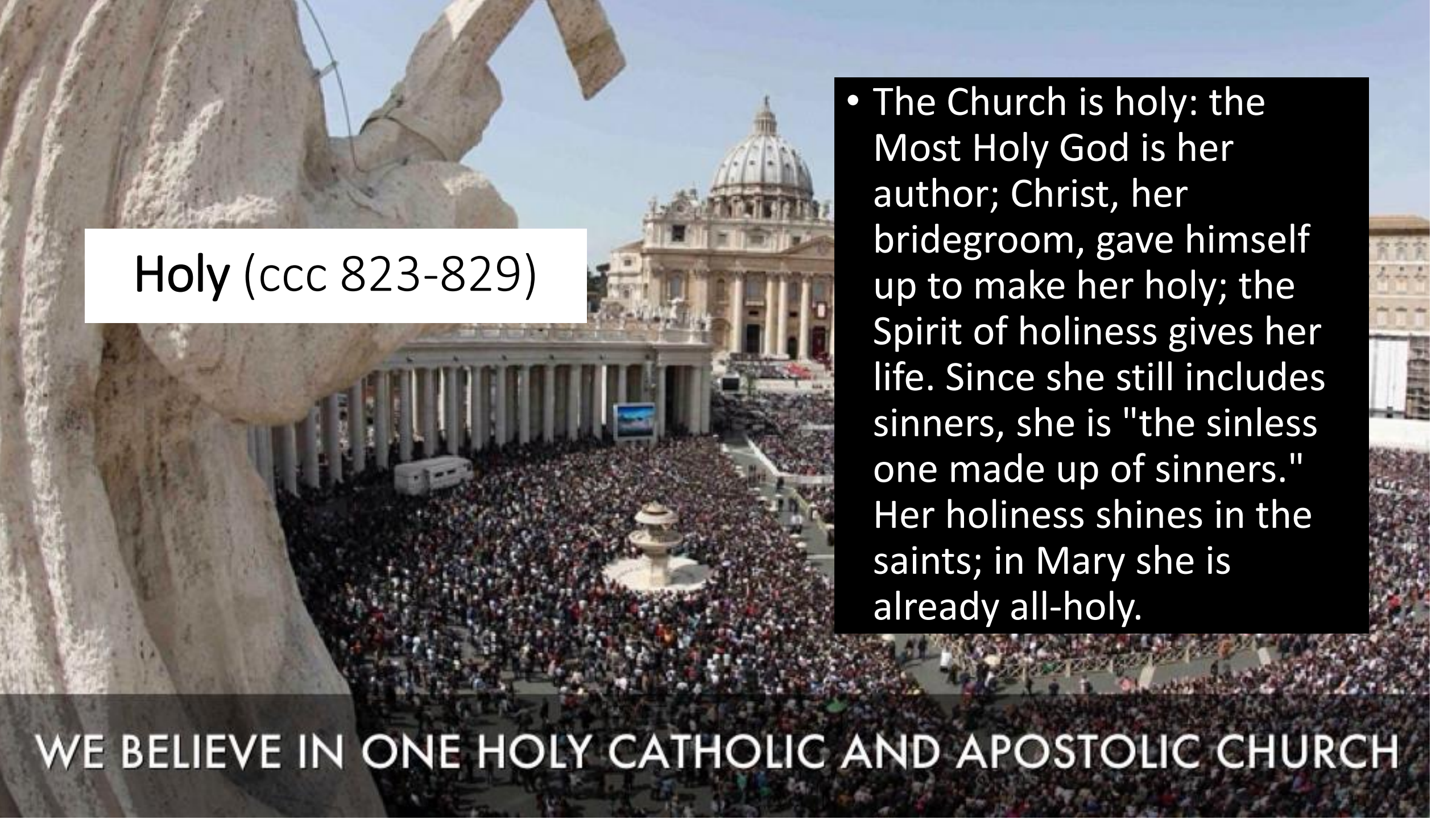
What Are The Four Marks?

At Mass, we profess belief in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
What does that mean?

ONE (CCC 811-822)

The Church is one: she acknowledges one Lord, confesses one faith, is born of one Baptism, forms only one Body, is given life by the one Spirit, for the sake of one hope (cf. *Eph* 4:3-5), at whose fulfillment all divisions will be overcome.





Holy (ccc 823-829)

- The Church is holy: the Most Holy God is her author; Christ, her bridegroom, gave himself up to make her holy; the Spirit of holiness gives her life. Since she still includes sinners, she is "the sinless one made up of sinners." Her holiness shines in the saints; in Mary she is already all-holy.

WE BELIEVE IN ONE HOLY CATHOLIC AND APOSTOLIC CHURCH




Catholic (CCC 830-856)

The Church is catholic: she proclaims the fullness of the faith. She bears in herself and administers the totality of the means of salvation. She is sent out to all peoples. She speaks to all men. She encompasses all times. She is "missionary of her very nature" (AG 2).



Apostolic(CCC 857-865)

- The Church is apostolic. She is built on a lasting foundation: "the twelve apostles of the Lamb" (*Rev*21:14). She is indestructible (cf. *Mt* 16:18). She is upheld infallibly in the truth: Christ governs her through Peter and the other apostles, who are present in their successors, the Pope and the college of bishops.



Why is belonging to a community of faith so necessary in our personal relationship with God?

In what ways is the Church considered a mystery of faith?

How is Jesus Christ at the center of our understanding of the Church?

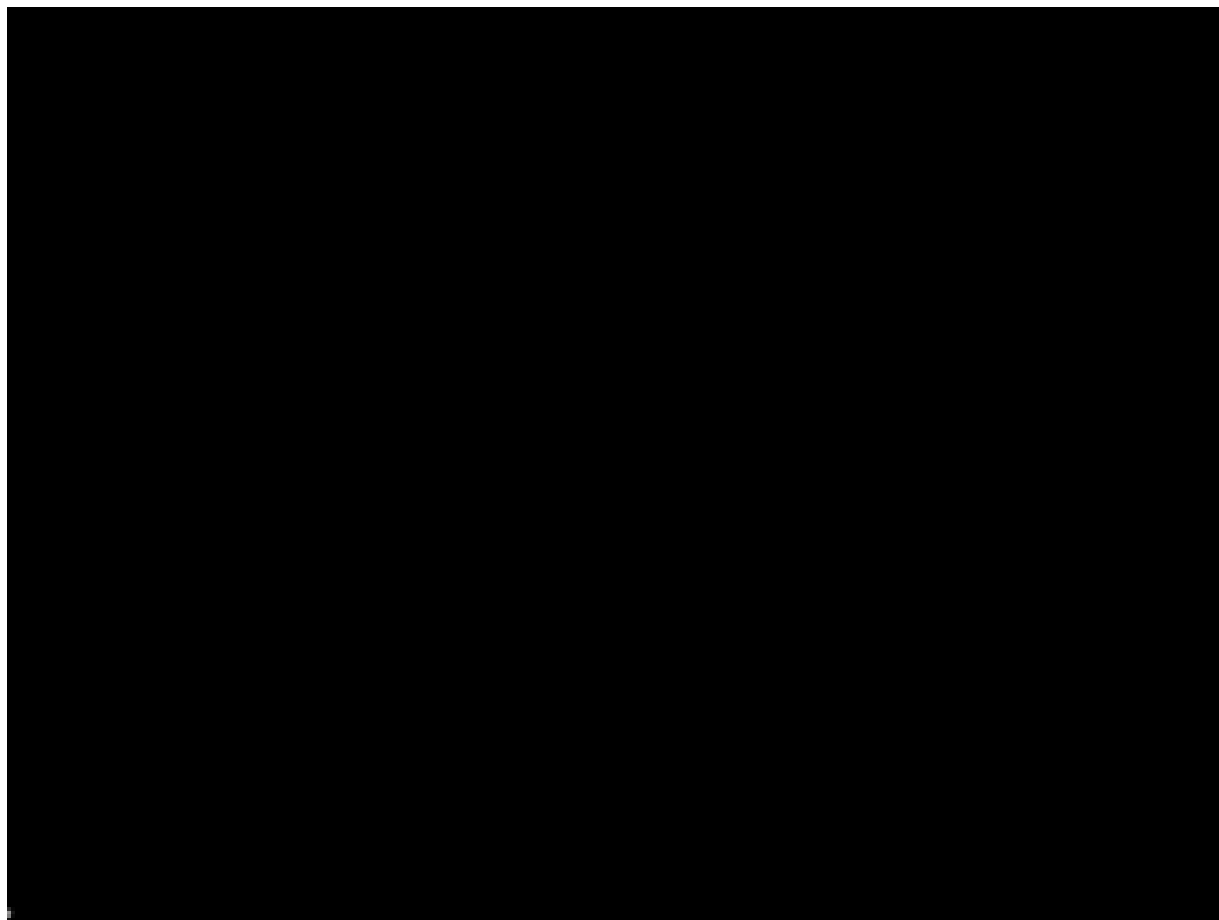
What is the significance of the images of the Church as the People of God, the Body of Christ, and the Temple of the Holy Spirit?

Don't be a PEW potato

- The Church is us
- I want to leave you with something to think about from Bishop Robert Barron



Bishop Robert Barron



Prayer

- Heavenly Father, look upon our community of faith which is the Church of your Son, Jesus Christ. Help us to witness to his love by loving all our fellow creatures without exception. Under the leadership of the Holy Father and the Bishops keep us faithful to Christ's mission of calling all men and women to your service so that there may be "one fold and one shepherd." We ask this through Christ, our Lord.
Amen.